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USSR Report

CONSUMER GOODS AND DOMESTIC TRADE

No. 54



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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

UKRAINIAN DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER COMPLAINS OF SHORTAGE OF CONTAINERS

Moscow SOVETSKAYA TORGOVLYA in Russian 4 Dec 82 p 2

[Article by A. Mikhaylichenko, Ukrainian SSR first deputy minister of trade: "A Savings of 42 Million Rubles Could Result from the Incorporation of Progressive Materials Handling Technology in the Ukrainian SSR"]

[Text] The number of state trade personnel in the Ukrainian SSR increased by 21,000 during the last five-year plan. This would seem to be a fairly natural process: New and modern enterprises are being opened and service quality requirements are constantly rising. The need to reduce shopping time and eliminate customer lines is one of the most urgent problems in the branch. It therefore needs people who are skilled specialists and are able to meet requirements.

Only 2.8 percent of the 21,000 new people in the republic state trade network, however, are salesclerks who come into direct contact with the customer. The rest (97.2 percent!) are freight handlers and auxiliary workers.

There is good reason for this. The most strenuous and time-consuming operations in trade are still materials handling operations, an unproductive form of labor connected with the transport, acceptance and packaging of goods and their handling in warehouses and stores. Suffice it to say that around 19 percent of all the workers in the Ukrainian SSR grocery trade perform these operations. In some places this indicator is much higher. For example, it is 23.7 percent in Chernovitsy Oblast, 23.4 percent in Volyn Oblast and 23.3 percent in Crimean Oblast. In essence, almost one out of every four workers here performs auxiliary operations that are usually unproductive and labor-intensive.

As we know, the current five-year plan does not envisage any increase in personnel for the branch because the entire commodity turnover increment is to be achieved through higher labor productivity. This is a requirement of today's economy and it will necessitate the vigorous incorporation of scientific and technical achievements and new qualitative changes in the organization of distribution and trade.

Is it possible now to considerably reduce labor expenditures on materials handling operations, lower shipping costs and transport tons of groceries without any spoilage? An unequivocally positive response to these questions is indicated by the operational experience of the Klaypeda trade administration, where a progressive system is used for the distribution of prepackaged goods. The wider use of

this method in the shipment, storage and sale of goods is envisaged in the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers "On Measures for the Further Development of Trade and the Improvement of Trade Services for the Population in the 11th Five-Year Plan."

In recent years some steps have been taken to incorporate packaging equipment in Ukrainian cities. Plans for the incorporation of progressive materials handling technology were drawn up and approved in all republic oblasts in 1980 and 1981. The 11th Five-Year Plan calls for the establishment of 94 packaging shops, the conversion of more than 3,000 stores for operations with prepackaged goods and the manufacture of around 200,000 containers by sponsoring industrial enterprises.

This program is now being carried out in many republic oblasts. In Chernigov Oblast, where a plan for the institution of comprehensive efficiency procedures at enterprises of the branch was drawn up for the first time in the state trade network, 77 stores have converted to operations with prepackaged goods in the last 3 years and 3 packaging shops have been opened. The oblast Ukroptbakaley Base is part of the progressive system of materials handling and ships sugar and canned goods from its warehouses in prepackaged form.

Today most of the work to enhance the effectiveness of trade is intersectorial in nature and science is playing a more perceptible role in branch affairs. In Kiev, for example, specialists from the main trade administration and scientists from the Kiev Trade Economics Institute worked with industrial workers on a comprehensive plan for the incorporation of progressive materials handling technology. They drew up the plan and immediately went to work on it. As a result, this year 180 grocery stores in the republic capital were converted for operations with prepackaged goods. The annual savings derived from the incorporation of the new materials handling technology is 250,000 rubles and the demand for freight handlers and auxiliary workers is much lower.

Progressive materials handling technology is being incorporated in all republic oblasts. In many places this is being done with genuine enthusiasm and on the basis of economic calculations and progressive technological designs. Coordinating councils set up to oversee the participation of various branches of the national economy in the comprehensive enhancement of trade efficiency are operating successfully in a number of oblasts. For example, industrial enterprises in Kharkov Oblast are giving trade a great deal of assistance. Decrees adopted by party obkoms and oblast committees of people's deputies in Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkov, Voroshilovgrad and Donetsk are intended to accelerate technological progress in trade and improve the quality of services.

State trade in Voroshilovgrad Oblast warrants special attention in any discussion of the experience in the incorporation of progressive materials handling technology. Here around 300 grocery stores are selling prepackaged goods. Some 22 industrial enterprises are managing the delivery of their products from the shop to the shopping area. Each month more than 6,000 tons of machine-packaged commodities are transported.

I think there is no longer any need to convince people that the institution of comprehensive efficiency procedures in the state trade network is not a short-lived

campaign, but one of the principal ways of enhancing the effectiveness of the branch, as stipulated in the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers "On Measures for the Further Development of Trade and the Improvement of Trade Services for the Population in the 11th Five-Year Plan."

What is holding up the completion of the assignments listed in this decree? Above all, there is a shortage of containers and the necessary mechanization equipment. This problem is most urgent in regions where the progressive materials handling system has been instituted.

It is true that metal needed by many other branches of the national economy is required in the manufacture of packaging equipment. According to the estimates of economists, Ukrainian trade alone will need 1.4 million containers to complete the prepackaged commodity assignments. Their manufacture will require 60,000 tons of sheet metal. There is no question that this figure is so high that it casts some doubts on the feasibility of this objective.

A few calculations are in order. These 1.4 million containers would replace 22 million crates, which would require 112,000 tons of metal for their manufacture. Therefore, the manufacture of the necessary quantity of packaging material would require only half as much metal as the manufacture of traditional crates. Furthermore, the containers will cost the state less. Therefore, the new materials handling technology can produce a savings of 42 million rubles.

It is also significant that the quantity of wood used in the manufacture of wooden crates in the Ukrainian SSR is equivalent to the quantity used in furniture production.

These are just some of the arguments in favor of prepackaged goods. They seem convincing and economically sound and promise the state a considerable advantage. Nevertheless, some managers in industry are not in any hurry to give up outdated work methods and are holding up the incorporation of new and progressive experience.

"There are not enough containers," some workers in industry say to explain the insufficient effort to incorporate prepackaging. It is true that there are not enough containers, but enterprises of the republic Ministry of the Food Industry are nevertheless manufacturing 600,000 wire crates each year, wasting valuable metal on the production of packaging materials which essentially have no future.

The requirements of the present day are such that it is not enough to simply popularize new work methods and incorporate the latest techniques and technology; the specific difficulties inhibiting scientific and technical progress must also be discovered and eliminated. The development of a progressive materials handling technology envisages the resolution of a group of interrelated problems. In particular, it will be necessary to remodel trade enterprises and to open stores and bases where new methods of product distribution and sales can be employed. It must become the rule everywhere that grocery stores be fully prepared for the sale of prepackaged goods after repairs and remodeling. Unfortunately, these requirements are not being met everywhere. In Vinnitsa, Poltava, Rovno and a number of other oblasts, obsolete technology is often allowed to reside within new walls when funds are spent only on "cosmetic" repairs.

The work now being done in the republic to institute comprehensive efficiency measures in state trade and to incorporate the new materials handling technology can reduce the need for freight handlers and auxiliary workers by 30-40 percent, can add 30 percent to the shopping area by cutting down on auxiliary facilities and can reduce losses of groceries during transport and storage by 20 percent. In other words, branch objectives can be attained with a relatively small increase in financial expenditures and labor resources. This is now, as pointed out at the November CPSU Central Committee Plenum (1982), one of the main economic issues.

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

NATIONAL WELFARE STATISTICS GIVEN

Moscow VESTNIK STATISTIKI in Russian No 10, Oct 82 pp 63-69

[Text] I. Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the USSR--Basic Indicators of the Rise in the Soviet People's Material Well-Being

"The point of departure for the party and political approach to economics has always been the unchanging policy demand--everything on behalf of the individual and everything for the good of the individual"--L. I. Brezhnev

1. Rise in Material Well-Being and Cultural Level of the Population

<u>Categories</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Growth of earned national income (1940=1)						
Total	1	6.0	8.7	11.4	14.1	14.6
Per Capita	1	4.9	6.8	8.5	10.1	10.3
Growth of per capita real income (1940=1)	1	3.0	4.0	4.9	5.8	6.0
Growth of real income of workers and employees per laborer (1940=1)	1	2.4	2.9	3.5	4.0	4.1
Growth of real income of kolkhoz members per laborer (1940=1)	1	3.3	4.7	5.8	6.9	7.2
Growth of industrial output of consumer goods (Group "B", 1940=1)						
Total	1	4.4	6.5	9.0	10.8	11.2
Per capita	1	3.7	5.3	6.9	8.0	8.2
Payments and benefits derived by population from public consumption funds (1940=1)						
Total	1	9.1	13.9	19.6	25.4	26.5
Per capita	1	7.6	11.0	14.8	18.4	19.0
Retail commodity turnover in state and cooperative trade (1940=1)	1	4.2	6.3	8.5	10.6	11.1

[Continued on following page]

[Continuation of Table 1]

<u>Categories</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Consumer service volume (1965=1)		1	2.1	3.5	5.0	5.3
Total (actual) area of urban housing (year-end figures)						
Total, millions of square meters	421	1,238	1,542	1,875	2,202	2,270
Per urbanite, square meters	6.5	10.0	11.2	12.2	13.1	13.3
Total (actual) new living space, millions of square meters	24.5	97.6	106.0	109.9	105.0	106.4
Total number of students, millions	47.6	71.9	79.6	92.6	100.2	102.8
Number of VUZ students (at beginning of academic year)						
Total, thousands	811.7	3,860.6	4,580.6	4,854.0	5,235.2	5,284.5
Per 10,000 inhabitants	41	166	188	190	196	197
Number of children in permanent child care establishments (year-end figures), millions	2.0	7.7	9.3	11.5	14.3	14.8
Number of public libraries (year-end figures), thousands	95	127	128	131	132	133
Books and magazines in libraries, millions of copies	200	1,098	1,363	1,608	1,824	1,889
Number of movie theaters (year- end figures), thousands	28.0	145.4	157.0	154.1	152.6	151.4
Movie attendance figures, millions	900	4,279	4,652	4,497	4,259	4,244
Theater attendance, millions	84	101	111	117	120	121
Number of clubs (year-end figures), thousands	118.0	127.0	134.0	135.1	137.9	138.5
Books and brochures, millions of copies	462	1,279	1,362	1,709	1,760	1,899
Daily newspaper circulation, millions of copies	38	103	141	168	176	178
Annual circulation of magazines and other periodicals, millions of copies	245	1,548	2,622	3,043	3,226	3,116
Number of physicians in all special- ties (year-end figures)						
Total, thousands	155	554	668	834	997	1,034
Per 10,000 inhabitants	7.9	23.9	27.4	32.7	37.5	38.5
Number of hospital beds (year-end)						
Total, thousands	791	2,226	2,663	3,009	3,324	3,384
Per 10,000 inhabitants	40	96	109	118	125	126
Number of sanatoriums and convales- cent homes (excluding short-term convalescence)	3,600 ¹	8,080	9,167	11,697	13,141	15,523
Beds (accommodations), thousands	469	1,028	1,311	1,795	2,138	2,189

[Continued on following page]

[Continuation of Table 1]

<u>Categories</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
State capital investments in environmental protection and resource conservation, millions of rubles	—	—	600 ²	2,084	1,899	1,845
Expenditures on labor safety measures, millions of rubles	—	829	1,292	1,892	2,452	2,294 ³

1. 1939.

2. Average for 1966-1970.

3. Besides this, over 2 billion rubles was spent on the manufacture of personal protective equipment and the provision of several categories of workers with milk and therapeutic meals.

2. Use of National Income for Consumption and Accumulation, Broken Down by Five-Year Plans (in comparable 1973 prices; billions of rubles)

<u>Categories</u>	<u>8th</u> <u>(1966-1970)</u>	<u>9th</u> <u>(1971-1975)</u>	<u>10th</u> <u>(1976-1980)</u>	<u>10th Five-Year Plan</u> <u>in percentage of</u>	
				<u>8th</u>	<u>9th</u>
National income used for consumption and accumulation	1,230	1,647	2,045	166	124
Consumption	887	1,191	1,511	170	127
Accumulation and other expenditures	343	456	534	156	117

Three-fourths of national income is used for consumption, and if expenditures on housing and sociocultural construction are included, four-fifths of the total is used to enhance public well-being; during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan the total figure was 1,625,000,000 rubles, or 26 percent more than during the 9th.

3. Growth Rate of Earned National Income in Union Republics (1970 = 100)

<u>Republics</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
USSR	100	132	163	168
RSFSR	100	133	164	169
Ukrainian SSR	100	125	148	152
Belorussian SSR	100	149	191	201
Uzbek SSR	100	139	183	193
Kazakh SSR	100	122	151	154

[Continued on following page]

[Continuation of Table 3]

<u>Republics</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Georgian SSR	100	131	188	199
Azerbaijan SSR	100	139	204	218
Lithuanian SSR	100	131	147	154
Moldavian SSR	100	127	160	167
Latvian SSR	100	133	158	163
Kirghiz SSR	100	126	154	160
Tajik SSR	100	133	169	174
Armenian SSR	100	146	210	225
Turkmen SSR	100	131	141	146
Estonian SSR	100	131	161	163

4. Growth Rate of Real Per Capita Income in USSR and Union Republics (1970 = 100)

<u>Republics</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
USSR	100	124	146	151
RSFSR	100	127	151	156
Ukrainian SSR	100	120	141	145
Belorussian SSR	100	127	153	158
Uzbek SSR	100	125	149	154
Kazakh SSR	100	125	149	153
Georgian SSR	100	122	154	161
Azerbaijan SSR	100	117	142	146
Lithuanian SSR	100	123	141	145
Moldavian SSR	100	131	157	162
Latvian SSR	100	117	138	141
Kirghiz SSR	100	125	141	144
Tajik SSR	100	123	137	139
Armenian SSR	100	116	145	150
Turkmen SSR	100	129	144	151
Estonian SSR	100	118	143	146

5. Average Monthly Wage of Workers and Employees in National Economy (rubles)

<u>Years</u>	<u>Average monthly wage, including payments and benefits from public consumption funds</u>	<u>Average monthly monetary wage</u>
1940	40.6	33.1
1960	107.7	80.6
1965	129.2	96.5
1970	164.5	122.0
1975	198.9	145.8
1980	232.7	168.9
1981	238.0	172.5

6. Wages of Kolkhoz Members from Kolkhoz Farming (rubles)

<u>Units of measurement</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Average monthly wage	28.3	51.3	74.9	92.0	118.5	122.1
One man-day	1.40	2.3	3.90	4.54	5.52	5.64

7. Payments and Benefits Derived by Population from Public Consumption Funds

<u>Categories</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Total payments and benefits, billions of rubles	4.6	41.9	63.9	90.1	117.0	122.0
Breakdown:						
Education (public and cultural education)	2.0	13.2	18.7	25.1	31.6	32.6
Including student grants	0.2	0.9	1.3	2.2	2.5	2.6
Public health care and physical culture (free medical care, sanatorium and health resort services, physical therapy, etc.)	1.0	6.9	10.0	12.9	17.2	17.9
Social security and social insurance	0.9	14.4	22.8	34.6	45.6	48.1
Including:						
Pensions	0.3	10.6	16.2	24.4	33.3	35.4
Stipends	0.5	3.5	6.1	9.2	11.0	11.3
State expenditures on housing maintenance (portion not covered by low rental fees)	0.1	2.3	3.4	4.9	6.9	7.3
Per capita payments and benefits, rubles	24	182	263	354	441	456

Public consumption funds provide the population with free education and advanced training, free medical treatment, stipends, pensions, student grants, paid annual vacations, free or discounted trips to sanatoriums and convalescent homes, free child care services and a number of other payments and benefits. In 1981 more than 50 percent of the total payments and benefits were monetary payments.

State expenditures per student per year amount to around 200 rubles in general educational schools, over 700 rubles in secondary specialized academic institutions and around 1,100 rubles in higher academic institutions. The maintenance of one child in a nursery costs more than 580 rubles a year, and the cost for kindergarten is around 500 rubles, and 80 percent of the cost is paid by the state. The state pays out more than 10 rubles for the maintenance of each patient each day.

8. Payments and Benefits Derived by Population from Public Consumption Funds,
Broken Down by Union Republics (millions of rubles)

<u>Republics</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>
USSR	27,293	41,934	63,945	90,135	117,042
RSFSR	17,181	25,638	37,564	52,571	67,780
Ukrainian SSR	4,843	7,449	11,836	16,083	20,902
Belorussian SSR	774	1,282	2,084	3,015	4,016
Uzbek SSR	744	1,305	2,290	3,610	4,943
Kazakh SSR	1,186	2,035	3,284	4,728	6,049
Georgian SSR	448	669	1,017	1,409	1,881
Azerbaijan SSR	374	618	973	1,453	1,818
Lithuanian SSR	264	463	808	1,182	1,617
Moldavian SSR	231	408	713	1,095	1,497
Latvian SSR	313	487	757	1,037	1,336
Kirghiz SSR	206	357	610	935	1,210
Tajik SSR	174	314	523	861	1,145
Armenian SSR	200	342	581	826	1,082
Turkmen SSR	160	262	424	690	921
Estonian SSR	195	303	481	640	845

9. Urban Housing (year-end figures; millions of square meters of total, or actual,
living space)

<u>Categories</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Total urban housing	184	421	1,238	1,542	1,875	2,202	2,270
Collectivized	77	267	806	1,046	1,352	1,655	1,715
Privately owned	107	154	432	496	523	547	555

Available rural housing amounted to 1,404,000,000 square meters of living space in 1981, including 333 million square meters of collectively owned housing and 1,071,000,000 square meters of housing owned by citizens.

Apartment rent has not changed in the USSR since 1928 and is equivalent to 3 percent of the average family income of workers and employees, including utilities. The population pays less than a third of the cost of housing and utilities. Now around 80 percent of the urban population lives in individual apartments.

10. Available Urban Housing in Union Republics (year-end figures; millions of
square meters of total, or actual, living space)

<u>Republics</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
USSR	184	421	1,238	1,542	1,875	2,202	2,270
RSFSR	116.3	241.9	736.6	913.8	1,106.2	1,291.2	1,324.7
Ukrainian SSR	39.3	97.0	258.9	313.1	375.5	440.7	456.2
Belorussian SSR	6.1	12.9	32.4	42.9	56.7	71.2	74.4
Uzbek SSR	7.4	10.7	29.4	37.7	50.5	64.0	68.0

[Continued on following page]

[Continuation of Table 10]

<u>Republics</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Kazakh SSR	2.9	9.5	51.5	67.3	82.4	97.3	100.9
Georgian SSR	5.0	8.0	22.8	27.8	33.1	28.0	39.3
Azerbaijan SSR	3.5	6.5	20.4	27.0	31.4	35.9	38.3
Lithuanian SSR		7.6	13.8	19.2	24.9	30.6	31.9
Moldavian SSR	0.3	2.0	9.0	12.0	15.9	19.4	20.4
Latvian SSR		11.9	17.8	20.5	24.0	27.2	27.7
Kirghiz SSR	0.7	1.6	7.8	11.0	13.3	15.4	15.9
Tajik SSR	0.7	1.5	7.5	10.7	12.7	14.4	15.0
Armenian SSR	0.9	2.1	11.2	17.7	21.9	25.8	26.4
Turkmen SSR	0.9	2.3	8.4	9.9	11.8	13.8	14.0
Estonian SSR		5.5	10.2	11.9	14.2	16.7	17.4

11. Growth of Retail Commodity Turnover in State and Cooperative Trade, Including Public Dining Sector, Broken Down by Union Republics (1940 = 100)

<u>Republics</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
USSR	100	423	628	854	1,061	1,106
RSFSR	100	391	568	764	939	979
Ukrainian SSR	100	424	629	844	1,032	1,066
Belorussian SSR	100	447	755	1,079	1,388	1,448
Uzbek SSR	100	469	729	1,060	1,454	1,564
Kazakh SSR	100	890	1,311	1,837	2,274	2,361
Georgian SSR	100	351	532	738	952	1,003
Azerbaijan SSR	100	340	523	705	910	968
Lithuanian SSR	100	548	953	1,319	1,703	1,780
Moldavian SSR	100	735	1,232	1,810	2,379	2,490
Latvian SSR	100	529	847	1,106	1,362	1,405
Kirghiz SSR	100	678	1,080	1,552	1,973	2,063
Tajik SSR	100	554	895	1,290	1,716	1,821
Armenian SSR	100	539	904	1,294	1,742	1,857
Turkmen SSR	100	373	600	869	1,144	1,209
Estonian SSR	100	479	766	982	1,262	1,322

12. Consumer Service Volume Broken Down by Types of Services (in comparable 1981 prices; millions of rubles)

<u>Services</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1981 in % of 1975</u>
Total services performed	5,508	7,911	8,405	153
Shoe repairs and shoemaking	492	724	777	158
Clothing repairs and tailoring	1,441	1,746	1,815	125
Knitwear repairs and tailoring	217	348	365	167

[Continued on following page]

[Continuation of Table 12]

<u>Services</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1981 in % of 1975</u>
Radio and television, appliance and vehicle repairs, repair and manufac- ture of metal goods	462	972	1,087	227
Furniture repair and manufacture	170	285	310	183
Dry cleaning and dyeing	144	186	192	133
Laundering	277	374	383	138
Housing construction and repairs	415	570	591	142
Photography	246	348	361	147
Baths and showers	162	183	186	115
Hairdressing	496	654	694	140
Equipment leasing	79	154	174	220

13. Consumer Service Performance Volume in Union Republics (in comparable 1981 prices; millions of rubles)

<u>Republics</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1981 in % of 1975</u>
USSR	5,508	7,911	8,405	153
RSFSR	3,111	4,374	4,641	149
Ukrainian SSR	1,066	1,522	1,595	150
Belorussian SSR	214	328	350	164
Uzbek SSR	179	314	343	192
Kazakh SSR	261	372	401	154
Georgian SSR	96	158	170	177
Azerbaijan SSR	72	111	128	177
Lithuanian SSR	91	127	135	149
Moldavian SSR	76	103	110	145
Latvian SSR	103	130	135	132
Kirghiz SSR	56	84	88	157
Tajik SSR	51	83	90	176
Armenian SSR	46	78	86	186
Turkmen SSR	36	57	59	163
Estonian SSR	50	70	74	148

14. Level of Education in Union Republics (number of people with higher and secondary--complete or partial--education per 1,000 people employed in national economy)

<u>Republics</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1982</u>
USSR	123	433	653	805	846
RSFSR	124	440	656	803	842
Ukrainian SSR	139	438	668	813	854

[Continued on following page]

[Continuation of Table 14]

<u>Republics</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1982</u>
Belorussian SSR	113	331	594	763	812
Uzbek SSR	61	447	663	848	888
Kazakh SSR	99	447	654	807	848
Georgian SSR	163	492	711	856	887
Azerbaijan SSR	122	473	674	832	867
Lithuanian SSR	--	250	496	711	771
Moldavian SSR	--	280	508	725	778
Latvian SSR	--	502	661	795	834
Kirghiz SSR	56	429	643	804	846
Tajik SSR	45	407	602	770	817
Armenian SSR	135	527	697	868	900
Turkmen SSR	78	497	682	823	867
Estonian SSR	--	448	660	786	833

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

REGULATIONS FOR TRADE IN MOTOR VEHICLES ON COMMISSION

Moscow KHOZYAYSTVO I PRAVO in Russian No 9, Sep 82 pp 91-96

[Article: "Standard Regulations For Commission Trade In Passenger Vehicles And Sidecar-Equipped Motorcycles"]

[Text] The USSR Ministry of Trade, through its order No. 170, dated 19 August 1982, has ratified Standard Regulations coordinated with the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs regarding commission trading of passenger vehicles and sidecar-equipped motorcycles.

This same order establishes the following for union republic ministries of trade:

Republican Regulations for the commission trading of passenger vehicles and sidecar-equipped motorcycles are to be ratified in the established procedure with consideration afforded the Standard Regulations;

Prior to 1 September 1982, regulations governing the republican trade in passenger vehicles and sidecar-equipped motorcycles on commission are to be distributed to all trade organizations and enterprises of state and cooperative trade conducting commission trading in passenger vehicles and sidecar-equipped motorcycles within the republic;

The general public is to be informed of the establishment of a new procedure for the acceptance and sale of motor vehicles and sidecar-equipped motorcycles on a commission basis.

Those Standard Regulations are published below.

1. Commission trading in passenger automobiles and sidecar-equipped motorcycles of domestic and foreign makes is conducted in stores specializing in their sale under state trade and commission stores of cooperative trade and listed as certified by ministries of trade of the union republics having no oblast divisions, by ministries of trade of the autonomous republics, trade administrations of executive committees for kray and oblast Councils of Peoples Deputies, main administrations of trade for Moscow Executive Committee, Leningrad Municipal Executive Committee, Moscow Oblast Executive Committee, Kiev and Tashkent

Municipal Executive Committees, and management bodies of appropriate republican, kray, and oblast consumer unions in coordination with the respective ministries and administrations for internal affairs. In the certification of the listing (locations) of stores, consideration is given to the location of registration-examination facilities of State Motor Vehicle Inspection (Gosavtoinspektsiya) to insure that stores and organizations authorized to engage in commission trading in passenger automobiles and State Motor Vehicle Inspection agencies charged with registration and control of transportation resources are situated, as a rule, in the same population centers.

2. Commission trading in the passenger automobile of the "Zhiguli" make belonging to citizens is accomplished also via special auto centers and technical service stations of the Volga Automobile Plant¹; in those designated enterprises, technical servicing or repair is performed on the order of the new owners and at their expense. In such cases of sale of passenger vehicles, settlement is made with individuals turning in autos for commission sale prior to technical service or repair.

3. Passenger autos and motorcycles both mechanically sound and not in running order are accepted for commission sale.

4. Passenger autos and motorcycles are accepted for commission sale from Soviet citizens to whom they belong under the right to private property, or by their power of attorney, executed in the prescribed form.

In the release of the vehicle for commission sale, the owners present the appropriate log book or a document substitute.

Purchasers of automobiles (motorcycles) in commission stores are restricted to citizens. Automobiles are sold to citizens of 18 years old and above, and motorcycles are sold to those 16 years and older.

5. Citizen-owners of passenger vehicles and motorcycles have the right to sell autos (motorcycles) belonging to them through the stores either without individual involvement, or, at their discretion, to any buyer.

The citizen-owner of the passenger vehicle in releasing it for sale with no personal involvement has the right to designate the selling price which is not to exceed the state retail price for the particular make currently in effect at the time of the release of the vehicle for commission sale.

6. In the release by an owner-citizen of a motor vehicle for commission sale without individual involvement, and also in all cases of motorcycle turnover, an acceptance receipt is issued in the prescribed form (supplement 1 to the current Regulations)² which indicates the completeness of the vehicle, year produced, exterior mechanical damage currently existing, etc. The receipt is signed by a store representative and the client.

In the release of a vehicle for sale to a designated buyer at the direction of the owner, a certified document is executed (supplement 2 to the current Regulations).

The document indicates the technical condition, completeness, year of production, depreciation percent, and other information. Such a document is compiled during acceptance with no personal involvement for autos in non-running condition or those having sustained damage as the result of accidents as recorded by agencies of the State Motor Vehicle Inspection (SMVI) or due to other accidents or natural disasters or calamities.

In acceptance of the vehicle (motorcycle), a commodity/trade label is officially executed which, as do the document and receipt, bears the signature of the client (or person holding power of attorney).

7. A special commission of competent representatives (not fewer than four members) from: a higher echelon trade organization; automobile stores, motor vehicle enterprises (agencies); and public (disinterested) organizations is formed for executing the documents in the store. A listing of the organizations (enterprises) whose representatives constitute the commission and of the level of competence of its members is established and certified by republican-level (ASSR) ministries of trade, by kray, oblast, and municipal trade administrations of Councils of Peoples Deputies executive committees, and by appropriate cooperative trade organizations as well.

8. Verification of the technical condition and completeness of autos turned over for commission sale, and of motorcycles as well, is accomplished with the participation of the client (authorized individual) directly in the store irrespective of the type of subsequent sale (with no individual involvement or with stipulation of buyer).

9. Depending upon the type of the subsequent sale, either with no personal involvement or with stipulated buyer, the price of the auto is designated in conjunction with the owner-citizen himself (or authorized person), or with a special commission as agreed with the client (authorized person).

In all cases, determination of the price for the auto or motorcycle by commission will be established according to applicable current retail prices for a new vehicle or a similar article of foreign make in accordance with supplement 3 to existing Regulations.

10. In the event that an auto released for commission sale without personal involvement is not sold within 15 calendar days, the store will effect a price reduction with client input at a scale coordinated with him. With the expiration of an additional 15 calendar days (not including the day of price reduction), the price of the auto is reduced by the commission with the participation and agreement of the client (authorized person) according to a document executed in the procedure outlined in points 6 and 7 of the current Regulations.

Further sales dates and price reduction dates are established relative to the procedure in force for the sale on commission of other industrial commodities after a second price reduction.

In the event that the client (authorized person) fails to appear when summoned (without sufficiently valid reason) or non-agreement regarding the amount of price reduction, the auto is removed from sale and returned to the owner. The client has the right at any time to independently reduce the price of the auto.

11. Stores accept on commission passenger autos within the territory of a union republic not having oblast subdivision, autonomous republics, kray, and oblast in the locations where they are registered with agencies of the State Motor Vehicle Inspection. Motorcycles are accepted on commission within the union republic in which they are registered.

Acceptance for commission sale of autos outside the place of registration is permissible in the following cases:

a. Passenger vehicles in non-running condition as the result of damage due to wreck, natural disaster, or accident which require major overhaul. These circumstances are certified in prescribed certificate form on the accident which occurred, or natural disaster or other form of accident, as appropriate, and to inability to transport and necessity for major overhaul to be performed³;

b. in case the vehicle cannot be delivered to the place of registration (serious illness of owner prohibiting him from driving, death of owner, or other reasons).

Written permission for the sale of vehicles in the instances provided for in sub-points "a" and "b" of the existing point, is issued for the location of the auto by oblast, kray, municipal trade administrations upon presentation of the vehicle technical logbook by the owner or his authorized representative indicating that the vehicle has been removed from registration control by the State Motor Vehicle Inspection agency for registration of transportation resources in conjunction with its release for sale on commission, with indication of place of sale and location of the vehicle, and also upon presentation of other appropriate documents.

12. Maximum period for release to commission sale of autos removed from registration at the State Motor Vehicle Inspection (not including date of removal), is 20 days. With expiration of the indicated period, autos are again presented at the State Motor Vehicle Inspection for notation in the logbook concerning extension of the release period for commission sale.

13. Passenger vehicles in running order and suitable for operation may also be sold through commission stores, those automobiles having previously been used by taxi motorpools, other auto-motor transport organizations, in enterprises, institutions, and organizations and declared to be surplus and not having been sold under redistribution procedures, as confirmed by appropriate regulatory documents.

14. Stores also accept passenger vehicles and motorcycles, including those without technical logbooks:

a. from financial agencies: ownerless, transferred by right of inheritance to the state, confiscated vehicles, and those from customs agencies, including both mechanically sound and in non-running condition. In this instance, for autos and motorcycles transferred to state ownership by inheritance rights and confiscated vehicles (excluding those from customs), certificates must be presented indicating that they have been registered in the name of the former owners at agencies of the State Motor Vehicle Inspection with description of numbers affixed to their assemblies, in accordance with appropriate registration information from the State Motor Vehicle Inspection;

b. from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Administration of Affairs--domestic passenger automobiles removed from use and returned from abroad by Soviet institutions abroad;

c. from the Main Administration of State Insurance (Ingosstrakh) and Intourist of automobiles belonging to foreign citizens which have been involved in accidents within the USSR;

d. from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Administration for Service to the Diplomatic Corps and Inyurkollegiya (Collegium of Foreign Lawyers) Moscow City Bar Association, representing the interests of foreign citizens who are owners of passenger automobiles.

In those instance provided for in the current point, selling price is established by the commission of the store.

In the release of autos and motorcycles for commission sale which do not have technical logbooks, the organizations and institutions enumerated in the point are obligated to provide the store with a copy of the document (in duplicate) upon which acceptance for commission sale is predicated (decision of judicial agencies, documents, certificates, powers of attorney, etc.). One copy of the documents indicated is provided by the store to the new owner in the course of the sale for presentation to agencies of the SMVI for registration.

15. A client or principal considered to be a corporation (auto firms, enterprises, institutions, organizations, etc.), are obliged to obtain permission of the superior organization in accordance with the current union republic statute in force regarding sale to the populace of passenger vehicles and motorcycles transferred to trade organizations. In the release of autos imported from abroad for commission sale, the store in prescribed mandatory procedure, verifies the presence in the technical logbook of remarks from SMVI regarding permission from customs authorities to sell the vehicle, or a remark to the effect that no such permission is required.

16. A client considered as a corporation does not have the right to designate buyers to the commission store. In the release of vehicles by such a client, a document is executed in the procedure provided for in points 6 and 7 of the current Regulations, and a representative of the client is included as an additional member of the commission.

17. Acceptance for commission sale is not permitted to individual citizens of busses, trucks, vans, and pickups mounted on passenger car chassis, GAZ-13 "Chayka" passenger car, ZIL-111, ZIL-114 and their later modifications, privately produced transport stock, motorcycle sidecars, racing cars and motorcycles, and also of transport stock with other make assemblies and parts installed if that installation is not reflected in the technical logbook in the "Special Remarks" section.

18. Automobiles and motorcycles are delivered to the stores for sale using the owners' resources and at their expense.

19. The owner of the automobile or motorcycle in releasing it to the store for sale in all cases transfers to the store the vehicle's technical logbook with a notation from SMVI as to place of registration and removal from registration-control in conjunction with its release for sale on a commission basis.

20. Parts, assemblies, and spare parts for the automobiles (motorcycles) are accepted for commission only from citizens.

Numbered assemblies (engine, body, frame, engine-block) are accepted for commission sale only if the client presents his technical logbook or a document substitute and a certificate from SMVI agencies certifying the right of the citizen to ownership.

Car bodies are accepted which are suitable for further use or repair. Suitability of the body is determined by the commission in the store or by an industrial consultant-expert office, which is governed by technical specifications TU 37.002.0096--79 "Acceptance and release from repair of passenger auto bodies in auto service enterprises", certified by the VPO "Soyuzavtotekhnobsluzhivaniye" and implemented effective 24 February 1980.

In the sale of numbered assemblies and also transmission gear boxes and distributors, front and rear axles, and crankshafts, commission stores issue purchaser a control-certificate of the form in accordance with supplement No. 7 to Regulations on the registration and control of autotransport stock as certified by order of the USSR MVD dated 30 January 1975, No. 20.

In the sale of other units and parts, commodity-trading checks are issued.

21. Employees of the commission store are obligated to thoroughly verify documents presented by the client or authorized individual during the release of the vehicle (motorcycle) and assemblies for commission sale, and that technical logbook data corresponds to actual numbers on assemblies and units. With the discovery of evidence of falsification of documents or non-agreement of numbers stamped on assemblies and parts, commission store employees must immediately so inform the territorial agencies of internal affairs.

22. A trade label is affixed with a lead seal to the automobile (motorcycle) released for commission sale. At the same time, a price tag approved in the established procedure, with required elements printed in block letters is affixed to the inside of the front windshield.

The management of the store displays in a prominent place an advertisement of autos and motorcycles listed for sale with make and model indicated.

23. A commission fee in favor of the store for the sale of the auto or motorcycle is assessed from the client at a rate of 7 percent of the cost of the vehicle at which it was sold.

24. Commission stores are authorized separate payment at 0.5 percent for the appraisal of autos not designated for commission sale (gifts, inheritance, division of property, trade, etc.). In case of an auto appraisal, the transfer of which requires payment of customs duties, customs issues to the auto owner a direction according to established form (supplement 4 to current Regulations).

25. The procedure for establishing the order of sale of automobiles to citizens on commission basis is established by executive committees of Peoples Deputies Councils.

26. The client may recall an auto or motorcycle which he has turned over for commission sale. To do this, he must provide a declaration addressed to the director of the store and present the acceptance receipt from the store, his logbook or document substitute. In all instances of return of vehicle, the client is assessed the cost of storage and maintenance of the vehicle at a rate of 0.5 percent for the first and 2 percent for each subsequent full or partial month that the vehicle is in the store on the initial designated appraised value of the automobile. With the return of a motorcycle, for each full and partial month 0.5 percent of the initial designated price is assessed from the client.

With the return of an auto or motorcycle to the client, the store returns the technical logbook which had been turned in.

27. In the sale of an auto or motorcycle, the purchaser is afforded an opportunity to test drive the vehicle. Gasoline and oil for this are provided to the purchaser in return for payment at current prices in effect.

28. Automobiles and motorcycles purchased on commission basis are not returnable by the buyer.

The store does not guarantee the quality of the auto or motorcycle purchased. In the sale of an auto or motorcycle accepted for commission sale, that portion of the warranty period which has not expired is transferred to the buyer.

29. After formalization of the transaction of sale-purchase of an automobile (motorcycle), the following notation is made in the technical logbook's section "Special Remarks": "Automobile (motorcycle) sold according to certificate-control 'series', 'number'"; the signature of the director of the store witnesses the entry, and a stamp is imprinted with the date of sale.

The store is obliged to issue the buyer a technical logbook, certificate-control, (according to the form defined in supplement 5 to current Regulations) and a license plate "Transit" which are provided to the stores by agencies of State Motor Vehicle Inspection.

In issuing the "Transit" license plate, the store enters the appropriate entry in the certificate-control and the control journal for acceptance and sale on commission of passenger cars and motorcycles to individual owners.

The "Transit" license tags issued by SMVI to owners for delivery to stores are confiscated by trade organizations and destroyed according to prescribed procedure.

In the sale of passenger autos accepted for sale without technical logbooks in cases provided for by point 14 of current regulations, the store makes the following entry on the reverse of the certificate-control, which is attested by the store manager's signature and a circular stamp: "Automobile accepted and sold without technical logbook".

The store also maintains in this journal a record of sale-purchase transactions taking place through power of attorney. The journal is kept for a period of 10 years.

31. Payment to the client is effected by the store on the third day after the sale of the auto or motorcycle, not including the day of sale, upon presentation of the receipt, logbook or document substitute, or the power of attorney witnessed in the established manner, with indication of logbook data of the client.

In the event that the client (authorized person) fails to appear to receive the money, the commission store considers the sum subject to payment to be on its balance for a period of 3 years, after which the money reverts to the state budget.

32. Accounting for and recording of operations for the acceptance and sale on commission of autos and motorcycles is carried out in accordance with Instructions on the procedure for bookkeeping-accounting in commission stores for the sale of non-foodstuff commodities, ratified by the order of the USSR Ministry of Trade, and in cooperative trade, in accordance with instructions ratified by the decree of the Tsentrosoyuz (USSR Central Consumers' Societies Union) board.

33. In the event of loss by the buyer of the certificate-control for acquisition of an auto or motorcycle, the store issues at the buyer's declaration or request of SNVI agency for place of registration, a new certificate-control with the entry "Duplicate", indicating series, number, and date of the previously issued certificate control. The new certificate-control is witnessed by the signatures of the director and senior accountant or chief accountant in the record journal (supplement 6 to current Regulations).

34. Commission stores display in a convenient place for perusal extracts from Regulations for commission trading in passenger automobiles and motorcycles with sidecars as are extracts from Regulations regarding registration and control of autotransport stock in State Motor Vehicle Inspection agencies.

In union republics, Regulations for the commission trading of passenger autos and motorcycles with sidecars within the republic are ratified with allowance given to Standard Regulations in effect.

FOOTNOTES

1. Henceforth, enterprises of all types engaging in the commercial trading of automobiles and sidecar-equipped motorcycles are termed "commission stores".
2. Supplements are not published.
3. Certificate is issued by an agency of internal affairs (State Motor Vehicle Inspection)

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

IMPROVEMENTS IN PRODUCTION ORGANIZATION FOR COMMODITIES SUGGESTED

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Nov 82 p 2

[Article by the staff of the newspaper KOMMERCHESKIY VESTNIK, acting as a collective correspondent of the newspaper IZVESTIYA: "A Thousand Trifles: How To Improve Organization of the Production of the Simplest Articles"]

[Text] It is not uncommon for the simplest product to disappear from store shelves. There is evidence of this in the letters the editors receive, cases of this kind are confirmed by organizations in the trade sector, and, finally, industry admits its fault in this important area. What is the reason for this?

Out of the more than 1 million consumer goods designations manufactured in the country today, hundreds of thousands are for all practical purposes not covered by nationwide planning. Such articles are in the category of the simplest products or come under the head of the conventional "thousand trifles." The market for "trifles" has long ago been turned over to local industry and local trade agencies. Moreover, the mechanism for delivery of unplanned articles is well known to everyone, and is exceedingly simple. This is how it operates: the trade sector, discovering a shortage of some of these very simplest goods makes up a complete and specific list of them, states the quantities needed, and passes these data on to industry. Specialists refer to this list as the "order of the trade sector," which must be set down as the basis for production.

It is well known that the 26th CPSU Congress emphasized the great importance of local initiative in satisfying the everyday consumer demand of the public. It was noted that the soviets of people's deputies should take specific steps to improve production and sale of industrially produced goods.

At present this effort is not going smoothly everywhere. For example, just as before in the stores of the republics of Central Asia and the Transcaucasus you will not always find rolling pins, clothes hangers, clothespins, kitchen knives, door hinges and latches, and so on. In Moldavia there is a shortage of shovel, hoe and rake handles and other simple products for which there is a great demand. And in the city of Mirnyy in Yakut ASSR, our readers report to us, it has been years since they have seen hide nor hair of stools, switch boxes, rolling pins, pestles and ax helms. Yet within 100 meters of the city

the age-old taiga rustles, literally laughing at the lazy business people. The Mirnyy forestry management section ignores the requests of the Yakut trade sector, which is forced to deliver the lacking wood articles 1,000 km by airplane.

According to the data of RSFSR Ministry of Trade, in 1982 the demand of the population, to mention specific articles, was met at a level of 40 percent for straw brooms, 58 percent for rake, hoe and brush handles, 72 percent for funnels, 84 percent for dishracks, 78 percent for woven baskets, and even that was done by manufacturing baskets with a capacity of 50 kg, which presumably would be suitable for farm work and vegetable depots.

This last example was taken up in particular, since it goes far toward revealing the reasons for the shortage.

Exactly who needs large woven containers made from coarse and untrimmed osier? Yet they were charged to the plan for consumer goods of enterprises in RSFSR local industry. In actuality the population does not want to "consume" such baskets. What is the way out?

The contradiction has to be removed between value indicators and physical indicators; that is the opinion of P. Kondrashov, USSR first deputy trade minister. And since we are dealing with goods that are not centrally planned, it is proposed that fulfillment of the trade sector's order be the basis for plan fulfillment. Especially since a number of documents, for instance the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers on development of the trade sector in the 11th Five-Year Plan, specifically point out that the trade sector should show the necessary persistence in planning local production of consumer goods. In this case the goods would reach the stores in accordance with the demand of the public in physical terms, and not only in its "external form"--money.

There is almost no waste in the generally accepted meaning of this word, says G. Simenenko, LSSR local industry minister. It is simply that in the process of operation remainders of materials are built up which often are not utilized. There are many reasons. The principal ones are lacking the capability to process them, lacking the skill, and finally a simple lack of desire.

The task now is to keep from having ever-smoldering volcanoes outside our cities and settlements where remnants from the leather, garment and plastics industries rot and smoke and where boards and plywood burn. Even household trash can be put to use. It is calculated that every year the dumps receive 550-600 million rubles worth of metal, textiles, polymers and glass thrown out by the public because they were unnecessary. At a certain cost an excellent raw material can be obtained from these materials for local industry.

Every republic, kray, oblast, rayon and city possesses truly inexhaustible possibilities for increasing the output of the simplest goods. There is quite a bit of evidence of this. In a number of places experience has been gained which could be taken over wholesale by enterprises of local industry in such republics as Turkmenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, where the share of local

raw materials and remnants of production is only 3-4 percent in manufacturing products for the people.

Yet in Belorussia, for example, this figure is higher than the national average--more than 10 percent. In that republic they recently changed the name from waste to surplus. The psychological benefit paid off in terms of economic gain. A survey of practically all enterprises to discover secondary raw materials, which was conducted on the initiative of the BSSR CP Central Committee and Presidium of the republic's Supreme Soviet, marked the beginning of this important effort. Then the BSSR Council of Ministers issued specific assignments to ministries, including the ministry of local industry and its enterprises, to utilize remnants of their own production and those obtained through cooperative arrangements to organize the production of goods for which there is volume demand.

The republic's Gossnab also became involved in the effort. Every year it compiles and sends to ministries and enterprises catalogues of remnants which have formed at industrial enterprises. In Minsk under the auspices of Gossnab there is a permanent republic exhibition now in its second year of successful operation which on the one hand displays various cuttings and pieces of wood, metal, fabrics, and polymers, and on the other displays examples of goods (more than 1,000 are on exhibit!) whose production can be organized by any enterprise. And many collectives are already becoming quite involved in this. The production programs include children's sleds, can openers, locks, keys, axes, dustpans, rugs, spreads, and other household articles. Last year about 626 tons of ferrous metals alone were used for these purposes.

Unfortunately the constructive experience is at present made up of scraps here and there. In the country as a whole the share of such resources and raw materials put to worthwhile use is only a few percentage points. What are the barriers standing in the way of increasing this important percentage? We have already spoken about two of them: the order from the trade sector has not yet become the basis (we call it the local plan) for determining the volume of production and assortment of the simplest commodities; local soviets of people's deputies still have little influence on the output of products in volume demand, and they take poor advantage of their rights.

But the "weather" on the domestic market, as in nature, depends on a confluence of many phenomena and the effect of various factors. It is advantageous to the state and to the economy when raw materials and supplies are, as they say, recycled. At the same time the present system for stimulating manufacturing enterprises to produce goods from production remnants does not always tend to invigorate this effort. For example, it is established procedure that the profit obtained from selling consumer goods manufactured from production waste remains at the disposition of enterprises, but provided that the value of substandard raw materials consumed in producing the product comprises 50 percent or more of the value of all the raw materials and supplies, not counting the value of auxiliary materials.

M. Rogachev, BSSR deputy minister of local industry, does not see why a sliding scale should not be established from 1 to 100 percent of secondary materials used in articles and stimulate enterprises accordingly?

A situation like this also suggests a need to amend the present rules. In the local industry of Perm Oblast a cleaning agent is manufactured from dumped blast furnace dust. But there is no price on the initial raw material. So the products made from it are not credited to the volume of commodities manufactured from secondary raw materials.

The products list of local industry, which is quite diverse, includes such a scarce commodity as paints and varnishes. At present they cannot be produced without vegetable oils. It is an urgent task to replace the natural raw material. Not only in local industry. At present there are still many edible fats being used for technical purposes. This is intolerable.

There is also good reason to call attention to the standards which are in effect. According to the sectorwide standard, for example, shovel handles have to be made from beech, birch and ash. But if one does not have these species at hand, the raw material either has to be brought in from the other end of the world, or you go to find the commodity itself. Yet age-old experience shows that handles made from aspen, alder and even maple are just as good as the standard ones.

The "Basic Directions for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR Over the Period of 1981-1985 and up to the Year 1990" has ordered enterprises of local industry to achieve an approximately 1.4-fold growth of industrial output and to improve the quality and assortment of goods. It is specifically stipulated that they increase the output of products from secondary resources and local sources of raw materials. In 1985 the sector is to give the market 2.2 billion rubles worth of such products. Yet it is not output in general that is needed, but specific articles with particular use values. And if "trifles" are not centrally planned, this does not mean that it is impossible to plan them locally. That is both possible and necessary.

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CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM FOR ESTONIAN GOODS

Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian 5 Jan 83 p 2

[Article by A. Karu, acting chief of the laboratory for planning scientific and technical progress of the Scientific Research Institute of Economics and Planning of the Estonian SSR Gosplan, candidate of economic sciences: "A Comprehensive System in Action"]

[Excerpts] A task has been set for the republic's industry: the complete the introduction of comprehensive systems for quality control of products (KSUKP) at industrial enterprises under the Five-Year Plan and, by the end of the Five-Year Plan, to increase the proportion of items of the highest quality category to 25 percent of the overall volume of products.

The standards of enterprises which are subject to regular revision, guaranteeing constant updating of norms and requirements that are included in these standards, constitute the basis of the KSUKP.

Enterprises of the republic began to engage in the development of the KSUKP on the basis of standardization in 1975, after the CPSU Central Committee approved the experience of the leading enterprises of Lvov Oblast and recommended that this experience be widely utilized. Today more than 280 enterprises and organizations in Estonia are developing and improving their KSUKP's and 187 of them have already introduced the system.

Thus comprehensive quality control is exercised at enterprises of the ministries of local, light and the food industry of the ESSR, the ministry of the timber and wood processing industry and the ERSPO. The system has been introduced, moreover, in four planning-design and scientific research organizations of the republic.

This work contributes to increasing the proportion of products of the highest quality category, reducing losses because of slipshod work and improving labor organization. Many enterprises have simultaneously improved the system of material incentives and evaluation of the quality of labor.

For example, when the KSUKP was introduced in local industry the proportion of products with the Emblem of Quality increased from 3.2 percent in 1976 to 33.4 percent in 1981, and in light industry these figures from 4.5 percent to 19.9 percent, respectively.

But in addition to the positive results, one must also point out serious shortcomings. The most widespread of them are: that the basic standard which serves as the main document of the system is not always drawn up in keeping with the existing requirements; the enterprises do not always maintain the established standards; the system does not embrace all functions of comprehensive control; and the executives do not engage in improving the KSUKP.

Of the 27 enterprises inspected by the Estonian republic administration of the USSR Gosstandart, at 15 of them the system was "functioning" only on paper.

The perfunctory attitude of the managers of enterprises toward the development of the KSUKP is also supported to a certain degree by the lack of demands on the part of the ministries and departments, which do not check on the fulfillment of their orders with respect to prompt introduction of the system and are not very aware of the actual state of affairs.

Because of this there is an especially large number of shortcomings, for example, at the Eesti Dolomiyt plant (the system embraces only 7 of the 15 functions), at the Metallist experimental plant, at the Narva smelting and mechanics plant, at the Tallin perfume and fat products combine, at the Sakuskiy brewery and so forth.

For example, last year sanctions were imposed on the Sakuskiy brewery (more than 26,000 rubles from the gross output and 5,000 rubles from profit) and also the Prompribor production association (101,200 and 27,300 rubles, respectively) and Standard (28,100 rubles and 900 rubles, respectively).

Consequently, even quality control systems that have been introduced do not function at the level which would guarantee the output of products with stable quality.

The "Methodological Instructions for Determining the Effectiveness of Comprehensive Systems of Quality Control of Products at Industrial Enterprises" are used to evaluate the economic results of the functioning of the KSUKP. The effectiveness is determined in terms of profit obtained from the sale of products of the highest quality category and exported products, and also as a result of reducing nonproductive losses or as a result of economizing on monetary funds intended for payments for the production capital of the enterprise.

For example, according to the results of 1981 the economic effect in light industry of the ESSR as a whole amounted to more than 4,653,000 rubles. The best results were achieved by the production association's Mistra (1,997,000 rubles), Marat (1,029,000 rubles) and Baltika (702,000 rubles). They already produce almost 63 percent of the entire annual effect for the ministry.

At the same time at such enterprises as Baltiyskaya manufaktura or the Tartu leather footwear combine, the results do not exceed 4,000 rubles.

It should be explained that the economic effect is determined on the basis of improvement of the corresponding figures as compared to the preceding year. At enterprises where the proportion of products of the highest quality category were already fairly solid in 1980 and they did not change much in 1981, the methods for determining the economic effect remained fairly modest although stable.

The achievements of Misträ and Baltika were related to a sharp increase in the output of products of the highest quality category. The great success of the Marat association was brought about by the introduction of new imported equipment and a change in the prices for cotton items.

The economic effect of the KSUKP for the ESSR Ministry of the Light and Wood Processing Industry amounted to 1,241,300 rubles in 1981. The Vyrü furniture factory was especially distinguished because of the increase in the output of products with the Emblem of Quality of 1 million rubles.

At enterprises of the food industry the annual effect ranged from 500,000 (Narva bakery combine) to more than 87,000 rubles (Kokhtla-Yarve bakery combine). At the Kokhtla-Yarve bakery combine it was achieved as a result of reducing leftovers and reducing the labor-intensiveness of the items.

The same indicator in the meat and dairy industry reached 1,234,000 rubles, but it could be greatly increased if the development of the KSUKP were accelerated in agriculture and procurement operations.

For further improvement of product quality control, it is necessary to develop a republic KSUKP and to introduce branch systems in all ministries and departments of the republic.

Understanding that work of this volume is not within the power of workers of our laboratory alone, we suggest creating under the ESSR Gosplan a specialized group which would include scientists of the Institute of Economics of the republic Academy of Sciences, representatives of the Estonian republic administration of Gosstandart and, possibly, head economists of several large enterprises. This group would be able not only to create a reliable KSUKP on the scale of the republic, but also to render further theoretical and practical assistance to individual industrial branches or production associations where the system has already been introduced.

11772

CSO: 1827/67

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

SYSTEMS ANALYSIS IN WIDE USE IN ESTONIAN LIGHT INDUSTRY

Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian 30 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by T. Kalantar: "Where Should One Look for Unused Potential"]

[Text] Though it successfully coped with the plan for output of its principal product--athletic footwear, the collective of the Tartu Leather Footwear Combine nevertheless ended up ... among the stragglers. Given their slowness in introducing highly productive new equipment, they have also been slow here to raise labor productivity. Personnel of the Estonian Ministry of Light Industry, who used a new method developed by the ministry's economists in conjunction with the department of statistics of TPI [Tallinn Polytechnical Institute] to analyze the enterprise's operation, helped the collective to discover potential for raising efficiency.

The economists referred to the matrix method of systems analysis of efficiency as an X-ray, a diagnostic instrument. With it it is possible to trace in detail the success and failure of every collective of a production section, enterprise or an entire branch.

The sheet of strong paper is filled with the crystal-clear "handwriting" of the computer. Here are relationships between the costs and resources, the most important results of enterprises' performance. Using traditional indicators in systems analysis economists obtain specific figures characterizing such factors of economic performance as the intensiveness and effectiveness of an enterprise's or branch's development. And that was the case with the Tartu combine. In spite of high indicators on the graph for plan fulfillment, the matrix model showed: both the efficiency and the intensiveness of production had dropped here. Discovering the reasons for this occurrence, the economists also pointed to the inadequate rise of labor productivity and the slow introduction of new equipment.

This particular method of systems analysis is being used in our country's light industry for the first time. It was proposed by U. Mereste, TPI professor, and developed and introduced by a creative group under the direction of G. Abramson, chief of the economic planning administration, and Kh. Kal, director of systems research of the project planning and design bureau for control systems of the republic's light industry ministry. During this year the method has been widely applied in the system of Estonia's light industry. It

is now the basis for a quarterly study of the performance of every enterprise and of the branch as a whole.

"This has helped to discover quite a bit of unused potential," G. Abramson told the ETA [Estonian wire service] correspondent. "And, knowing the real capability of every enterprise, we have made planning more flexible and in the plan directed every collective toward raising production efficiency. A more accurate assessment is made of the contribution of the collective of any enterprise to fulfillment of the tasks facing the branch. Results have become more comparable, and it is possible to total up the results of socialist competition more accurately. Indeed economic analysis itself has become less laborious than it was; enterprise economists obtained the results in a computer readout from the ministry's computer center: in the context of the matrix method it is simpler to use computer techniques. In addition, the analysis becomes an inseparable part of the computerized system for management of production and of the branch."

Telegrams from Lithuania and Kazakhstan and from the Ukraine tell of the desire of colleagues to study and apply the experience of the Estonian economists in their own situations. This year an all-union school-seminar was held in Tallinn which outlined widespread introduction of this know-how and continuation of the effort to improve it.

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CSO: 1827/42

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

CARTOON COMMENT ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Aug 82 p 4



"Are they shooting an art film?"

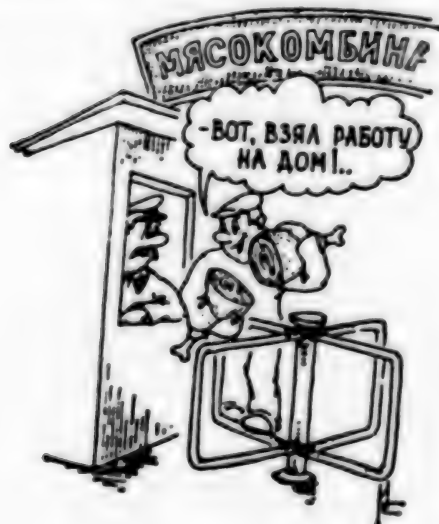
"No, a documentary."

Moscow TRUD in Russian 3 Sep 82 p 4



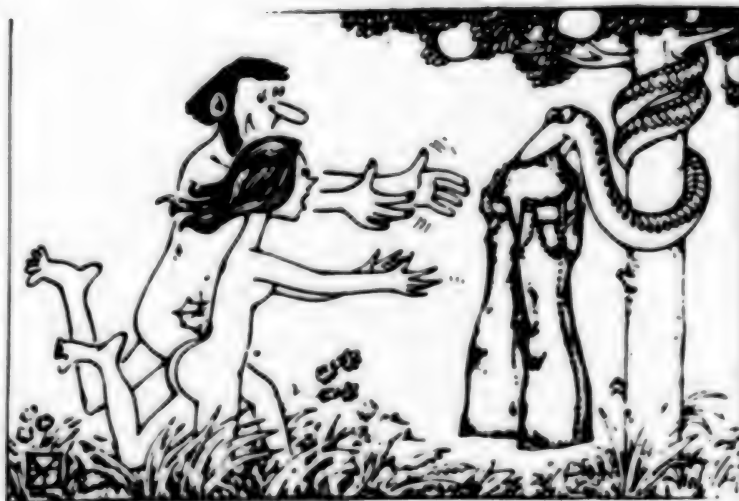
"Miss! Could you help me?
Oh, Miss!"

Moscow TRUD in Russian 2 Oct 82 p 4



"There, I'm taking my
work home!"

Moscow SPUTNIK in Russian August 82 p 25



CSO: 1827/83

CONSUMER GOODS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

UZBEKBIRLASHUV CHAIRMAN SURVEYS COOP SECTOR

[Editorial Report] Tashkent SOVET OZBEKISTONI in Uzbek 3 July 1982 carries on page 3 a 1,100-word article by Z. Siroyev, chairman of "Uzbekbirlashuv", titled "Contribution of Consumer Society Workers." Siroyev notes that Uzbekistan consumer coops account for 46 percent of the turnover in retail goods, bake 60 percent of the bread, and sell 70 percent of the vegetables, 98 percent of the fruit and berries, 60 percent of the rawhide, and 100 percent of the wool and fur produced in the republic. The coop industry operates 22,000 retail trade enterprises, 10,000 restaurants and cafes, 240 bread and pastry plants, and 10 canning and nonalcoholic beverage bottling plants. Its rural food sales reached 515 rubles per person in 1981. Still, Siroyev admits, supply of food to the population remains one of the most important problems on the agenda. Siroyev feels that improving the year-round supply of food will require fuller utilization by coop organizations of the produce from private plots. He proposes that long-term agreements be signed with private producers to buy their meat, potatoes, vegetables, and fruits. Thus far in 1982, consumer coops have already purchased from them 67,000 tons of meat, 670,000 tons of vegetables and potatoes, and quantities of eggs, chicken, and fruit. Siroyev also calls for increasing the size of cattle herds on the 220 farms run by coop organizations in order to meet 1982 goals calling for 90,000 tons of meat and a total of 325 million rubles in food products. The chairman concludes with remarks on ties between Uzbekistan and foreign coops. In the last 5 years, more than 100 delegations from foreign coops have visited the republic, and two seminars for leaders of coops in Asian, African, and Latin American countries have been held in Tashkent. He concludes with the statement that Uzbekistan consumer coops actively participate in all foreign trade operations handled through "Tsentsosyuz."

CSO: 1836/8

HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM FOR BELORUSSIAN SSR HOUSING INDUSTRY DESCRIBED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Nov 82 p 3

[Article by A. Bezlyudov, BSSR minister of housing and municipal services, Minsk: "Eliminating Unnecessary Levels of Administration"]

[Excerpt] Creation of good living conditions for the Soviet people, improvement of the quality of services and the manner in which those services are rendered to the public are an important social task which has been set by the Communist Party. The sector of housing and municipal services has a large role to play in performing it. The maintenance, management and repair of housing, supplying it with heat, water and electric power, the social amenities and sanitation of cities and settlements, and organizing the operation of public transportation--this is by no means a complete list of the concerns which are the responsibility of collectives in this sector of the economy.

Thanks to the attention and constant aid of the republic's party organization and government, Belorussia's housing management and municipal service sector has taken a notable stride forward in recent years. Its volume of output has grown, the assortment of its services has been broadened, it covers wider areas, and the quality of services rendered to the public has risen. The sector's plant and equipment has undergone further development. The process of specialization and concentration has continued.

The scale of operations has been broadened, the sector's structure has become more complicated, but the methods and forms of administration remained as before, gradually becoming a brake on its development.

That is why we in the ministry, in its scientific and project planning organizations, and in its regional administration began to think about this problem back at the beginning of the 10th Five-Year Plan, and in 1977 actually undertook to solve it. Together with scientists of MGU [Moscow State University] we defined the conception of a new master chart for administration of the sector. It is based on the transition to a two- and three-tier system, on achieving interlocking development of housing and municipal service management of oblasts, cities and worker settlements on the basis of a combination of the sectoral and regional principles of administration.

Previously we had five tiers: the ministry--the oblzhiikomkhoz [oblast housing and municipal service administration]--the city housing administration and municipal service department of the gorispolkom--the rayon housing administration--and the enterprise. The largest drawbacks of this system were the duplication of administrative functions, the difficulty in obtaining information, and the abundance of very small independent organizations in which staffs of the same type had been set up. This resulted in a scattering of physical and technical resources, financial resources and labor resources, and the advances of scientific-technical progress and experience of production innovators were slow to be introduced. In the end it was the public which suffered, there were many lapses in the services it received. This was felt with particular keenness in the example of the city housing administrations and municipal service departments of gorispolkoms. They were constantly squabbling over who was responsible for sanitation, for social amenities, and frequently the result was that no one was concerned about them.

In Brest Oblast in 1979 a new three-tier system was introduced on an experimental basis: the enterprise--the city or oblast production association--the ministry. The rayon housing administrations and dozens of tiny organizations have been abolished here. A regional council of enterprise directors, which concerns itself with further improvement of the structure of administration, has been operating effectively. Repair and management trusts have been set up within city housing and municipal service associations to improve housing maintenance. Incidentally, these transformations were carried out without increasing the size of the administrative apparatus or the costs of maintaining it.

Three years of operation have confirmed the advantages of the innovation. The income from the sale of services rose 19 percent, but only 16 percent for the sector as a whole. The assortment was expanded to include 44 new types of services, the number of complaints about the quality of their performance dropped by almost one-third. There was a notable improvement in the utilization of equipment. Personnel turnover dropped 15 percent.

The experiment's success allowed us to undertake to apply the innovation elsewhere. This indeed became an obligation under the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers adopted in July 1979 and entitled "On Improving Planning and Strengthening the Influence of the Economic Mechanism on Increasing Production Efficiency and Work Quality." Our enterprises have already been converted to the new system of administration in Minsk and Mogilev Oblasts, and the housing and municipal service sector of Grodno Oblast is preparing for that conversion. We hope to complete this effort in the republic as a whole in 1983.

The three-tier administration has made it possible to improve the conduct of economic activity. The main thing is that its introduction increases the concentration of production and of physical, financial and labor resources, and it is helping in the effort to use them more productively. The ministry has drafted and introduced temporary instructions on methods in converting the republic's housing and municipal service sector to the new conditions of planning, management and economic incentives.

Planning has become more thorough. Whereas previously it embraced only a small number of indicators, it has now been extended to the entire set of indicators. Targets are set in the entire sector and in each enterprise separately for the total sales of products and services, for the volume of principal types in physical terms, for the volume of major repairs of the housing stock, for total profit and the proportion of deductions from it, for reduction of the share of manual labor, for the number of workers and employees, and for many other aspects of operation. Thus production activity has in its entirety been placed on a precisely calculated and planned foundation. As a result, as experience has shown, the enterprises are operating more efficiently, and the rendering of services to the public is improving. At present more than 85 percent of our enterprises and organizations have been converted to the new conditions of planning and economic activity.

Special certificates which are made out at enterprises are helping to improve housing and municipal services to the public. These certificates contain information on the existence and use of equipment, machines, and vehicles, the value of fixed capital that already exists and that which is newly acquired, data on the volume of production, on its regularity, on expenditures of physical and labor resources per unit output, and indicators of social development. By means of this document, which is updated every year, it is possible to analyze much more thoroughly the enterprise's activity, discovering shortcomings and unused potential in that activity.

We have now introduced the planning and recording of labor productivity. The need for manpower is calculated in advance depending on the target for the rise of that indicator. I will explain this with an example. In 1980 the Grodno Oblast Water and Sewer Association delivered 38 million cubic meters of water to consumers. The plan for 1981 exceeded 40 million. If the output per worker in the association did not increase, then fulfilling the target would require a work force of 427 instead of the previous 402. But the enterprise was issued an assignment to carry out organizational and technical measures and to apply new technology, and that brought about a rise in labor productivity. And the annual plan was fulfilled with a work force of 398.

Use of this method of planning led us to a new idea: drafting a comprehensive program for reduction of manual labor. An analysis showed that its share was high--65 percent. Performance of the comprehensive program has made it possible in the current 5-year period to mechanize various operations and to eliminate 5,000 jobs. Of course, this figure might have been more impressive if the development of new technology had been speeded up and its output increased. An acute need arose for smoother coordination in creating, putting into production and applying this technology. Here again it is the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology which has the decisive word. The time has also come to make the activity of the Academy of Municipal Services truly nationwide in its scope, granting it the right to compose and carry out a unified plan of research and development projects on the scale of the entire country.

We also managed to set up in the republic a sectorwide product and service quality control system. This innovation, which embraces practically all our enterprises, is yet another important step toward improvement of the economic mechanism.

This helped the work force in the sector of housing and municipal services to fulfill the 1981 plan ahead of schedule, including the plan for rendering services to the public. The ministry received almost 43 million rubles of profit. The effort is being conducted successfully even now. The plan for the first three quarters was fulfilled at a level of 101.8 percent, and the profit earned was 19,768,000 rubles.

In conclusion a few proposals. Improvement of the economic mechanism and strengthening its influence on the quality of operation of the sector's enterprises will become more effective as certain obstacles are removed. One of those is planning based on the level already achieved. This method is an economic anachronism and often does more harm than good. Especially in our sector, one of whose specific features is that the acceleration of retooling and rise of operating costs, should the prices of a number of services remain unchanged, will tend to reduce the profitability of enterprises. As a result more and more of them are falling into the category of planned-loss enterprises.

Nor is that all. Directors of housing and municipal service organizations and enterprises do not have certain rights which have been vested in directors of plants, trusts and associations in the production sectors of the economy. We are specifically referring to instituting supplements for workers who combine occupations, who expand service zones or who increase the volume of work they do, as well as supplements for specialists analogously to what has been introduced for engineers, technicians and employees of industrial enterprises. In our view it is time that the sector of housing and municipal services be transferred from the category of a nonproduction sphere to a production sphere. After all, more than 60 percent of the total volume of products produced and services rendered by our enterprises come under physical production. A sector's supply of materials and equipment and its financing depend on which sphere of activity it is included in.

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CSO: 1827/41

HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN SERVICES CALLED FOR

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jan 83 p 1

[Article: "The Sphere of Human Services"]

[Excerpts] The inconvenient schedule of the operation of service enterprises causes an especially large number of complaints. According to data from an inspection of the USSR Central Statistical Administration, 90-95 percent of the consumer service enterprises in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan close at 5:00 or 6:00 in the evening. The majority of the non-food stores stop trading almost at the same time as the working day ends in the institutions and organizations. Many are forced to leave work in order to shop, take shoes in for repair, or obtain information. This leads to violations of labor productivity. The national economy loses millions of man-days each year.

One cannot put up with such a situation--the waste of the Soviet people's working time and leisure time is too costly to the society. The USSR Ministry of Trade has acted correctly by deciding to extend trade in city general stores until 9:00 p.m. and to introduce a more convenient schedule in a number of other non-food stores. The managers of the ministries of communications, finances and public health of the USSR and the ministries of consumer services and housing of the union republics, and also local soviets of peoples' deputies must revise the operating schedule of service enterprises, taking the wishes of the population into account. The introduction of daily breaks and sliding schedules will make it possible to clients to visit them in the early morning or late evening hours and on Saturday and Sunday. The receiving points, housing operations offices, housing administrations, municipal repair services, payroll offices, polyclinics, pharmacies, notary offices and passport tables of the police department should receive visitors and fill orders at times that are convenient for the population.

Efficient, scientifically substantiated distribution of enterprises of the sphere of services promises a significant savings of the time of the Soviet people. In places where they are concerned about this additional conveniences are created for the population. The introduction in Ufa of a system of distribution of receiving points, studios and consumer service shops made it possible for residents of the city to save up to 10 percent of the time spent on housework. Yet, as PRAVDA mail shows, in many industrial centers, primarily the new microrayons, there are not enough social and domestic facilities, and therefore the residents are forced to make trips to the center of

the city for all kinds of purposes. In order to rectify the situation specialists are suggesting that we begin the development and implementation of comprehensive plans for the distribution and expansion of the network of service enterprises.

The time has come to introduce progressive new forms of services more actively. Among them are the repair of radio and television equipment, complicated household appliances and furniture on the principle of "24-hour service," home delivery of various goods, and railroad and airline tickets, care for children and the elderly, the receipt of laundry for washing and other clothing for dry cleaning directly in the residential buildings, and many other things. In order to do this it is necessary to provide the corresponding services with specialized transportation and communications, and more extensively enlist pensioners and school youth for work in them.

Improvement of quality and advancement of the art of service require a decisive improvement in the activity of all ministries employed in consumer services. While improving the economic mechanism and introducing new organizational forms, managers of ministries, their territorial administrations and enterprises are obligated not to place primary importance on departmental interests, but to be concerned about conveniences for the people and saving their time and energy. It is precisely from this position that one should revise the existing rules for service to the population, which frequently place the visitor, the purchaser and the client in an unequal position with the enterprises of the sphere of services.

One should be concerned about bringing the services closer to the workers. The example of enterprises of Zavodskiy Rayon in Saratov is instructive. Having combined funds, they constructed a large house of services, and a total of more than 100 plants and factories of the oblast during the current five-year plan will invest 12.5 million rubles in the development of services. Along the corridors there will be comprehensive receiving points, consumer service shops, stores and take-out dining rooms. The workers will be able to handle many domestic concerns without any bother. This practice should become widespread.

A large amount of responsibility lies with the local soviets of peoples' deputies. It is their duty to develop all areas of the sphere of services promptly and comprehensively and to deal severely with managers of service enterprises who do not show concern about satisfying the demands of the population. It is also important to increase the attention paid to the needs of workers of the branch, to create favorable conditions for their labor and recreation, and to allot more housing and accommodations in children's preschool institutions. This will increase the productive activity of service workers.

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CSO: 1827/64

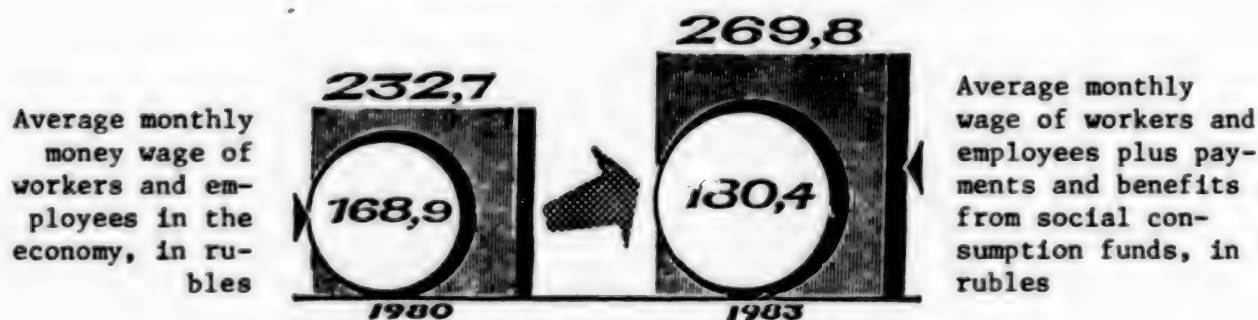
HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

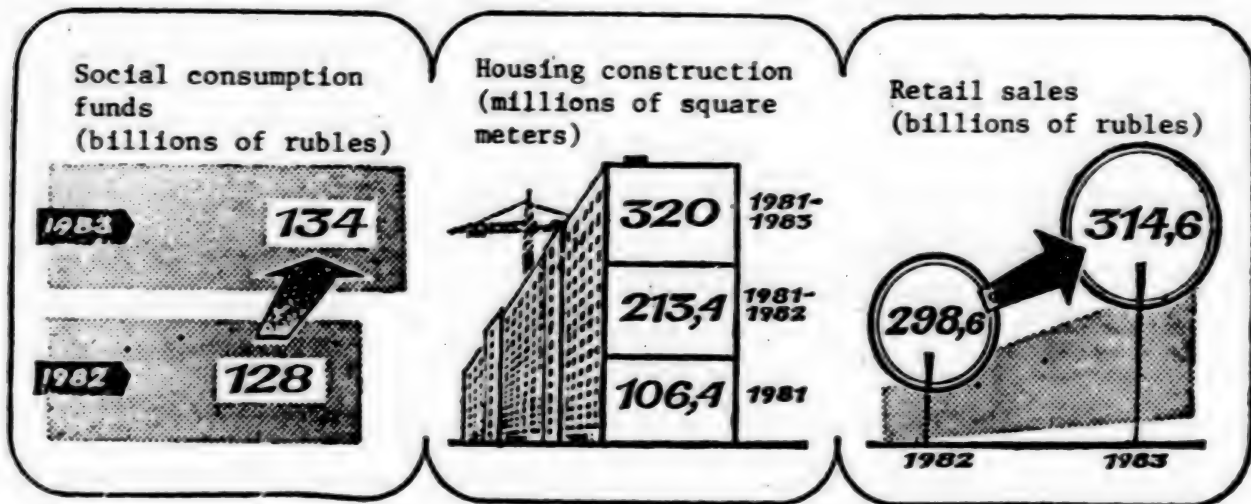
WORKERS' SALARIES DUE TO INCREASE THREE PERCENT IN 1983

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 51, Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Performance of measures to improve the prosperity of the people outlined by the 26th CPSU Congress will continue in accordance with the state plan for the country's economic and social development in 1983. The growth rates of real per capita income are to be 3 percent in 1983 as compared to an average of 1.8 over the period 1981-1982. An allocation of 7.3 billion rubles is being made for centralized measures to improve the prosperity of the Soviet people (the allocation in 1982 was 3.9 billion rubles), more than 2 billion rubles of which is being assigned to measures in the area of remuneration of labor. Payments and benefits from social consumption funds are being increased. A broad program of housing construction and measures to increase the production, expand the assortment and improve the quality of consumer goods are being carried out.

Rise of Wages of Workers and Employees





7045
CSO: 1827/41

HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

ADJARIAN CLOTHING FACTORY'S PROGRESS, PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian on 28 November 1982 page 2 under the occasional rubric "Stinging Lines" carries M. Gorgiladze's 1000-word piece on the successes and problems of the Khulo Clothing Factory (a Branch of the Batumi Association) since it was established about 10 years ago. Housed at first in temporary, cramped quarters, it quickly attracted 400 workers glad to be employed and willing to put up with the less than satisfactory conditions. Two years ago, new, more spacious, well-heated and ventilated buildings were completed. Production is good, although erratic supplies sometimes cause idleness. Nevertheless, the reporter found two basic complaints. First, the working women have quite a long way to go to work (some of them 8 to 10 kilometers), and this is hard on swing-shift workers especially, particularly during the cold, snowy winter season. Expansion of the factory would make it possible to convert to one shift instead of two. Next, the food service is deplorable. The dining area is cramped, and the food is monotonous and not very nutritious; there are practically never any meat or dairy products, and garden produce is scarce despite the fact that the area produces a great deal of it. As a result, most of the employees avoid going there.

CSO: 1813/808

HOUSING AND PERSONAL SERVICES

BRIEFS

SOCIAL FUNDS INCREASE--The rate of growth of national income, industrial and agricultural output and labor productivity planned for this year is higher than for the first 2 years of the 5-year plan. Almost all of the increase in national income will be channeled into consumption. In the 1983 budget, about R3.5 billion of additional funds have been allocated to raise living standards. More than R 2 billion of this sum will go toward wage rises. The introduction of partially paid holidays for working mothers for looking after children under 1 year old, and as single allowances payable on the birth of a child, will be completed throughout the USSR in 1983. Pension conditions for people who have worked at the same factory, office or organization for at least 25 years, or 20 years in the case of women with children, will be improved. In 1983, social consumption funds will reach R 134 billion. Approximately 10 million Soviet citizens will receive new apartments or will improve their housing conditions. At present, over half the Soviet population have an income of over R 100 per month for each family member. [LD030550 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 2 Jan 83]

CSO: 1827/65

CONSUMPTION TRENDS AND POLICIES

BSSR SUPREME SOVIET MEETS ON CONSUMER GOODS

Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 23 Oct 82 p 1

[Article: "In the Presidium of the BSSR Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] In Minsk on 21 October there was a meeting of the Presidium of the BSSR Supreme Soviet chaired by I. Ye. Polyakov. It considered the question of increasing the republic's production and improving the quality of goods that facilitate the work of women in the household.

The first deputy chairman of the BSSR Council of Ministers, Yu. M. Khusainov spoke. The chairman of the Commission for Consumer Goods and Trade, L. L. Lappo, spoke on behalf of the commissions for consumer goods and trade, trade and daily life of women and protection of maternity and childhood of the BSSR Supreme Soviet.

The Presidium of the BSSR Supreme Soviet noted that in the republic a certain amount of work is being done to increase the output, expand the assortment and improve the quality of consumer goods, including goods that save time and facilitate the labor of women in housework. A number of new products have been introduced into production and a number of items with improved consumer qualities have been assimilated. The republic commission for control of the production and delivery to the market of industrial consumer goods has set assignments for the Ministry of Local Industry and the Ministry of Consumer Services of the BSSR, and also for enterprises under union jurisdiction for 1982-1985 to produce more than 50 kinds of goods that facilitate household labor.

Measures are being taken to improve the organization of trade, to expand the network of culinary stores and dining rooms with food to go at enterprises, and to further improve consumer services and public catering, which makes it possible to reduce women's labor expenditures in housework and contributes to increasing their free time.

At the same time the Presidium determined that there are still essential shortcomings and unsolved problems in the work for developing production, increasing the assortment and improving the quality of goods that are used in the household.

The decree adopted at the meeting instructs the republic Council of Ministers to develop a complex of measures that provide for increasing the production of these goods. It was suggested to the BSSR Gosplan that it annually give the ministries and departments of the republic, the oblast executive committees and the Minsk city of soviets of peoples' deputies assignments for producing goods that facilitate labor in the household. They are also to improve the coordination of the activity of various branches of the national economy and review the problem of distributing orders of the BSSR Ministry of Trade and assimilating the output of consumer goods and goods for domestic purposes at enterprises of the Ministry of Local Industry and other ministries of the republic. Enterprises under union jurisdiction are to produce new items that are technically more complicated, for which the demand is still not being satisfied.

The Presidium made it incumbent on oblast executive committees and the Minsk city soviets of peoples' deputies to provide for comprehensive solutions to the problems of facilitating the labor of women in housework and more effectively influencing the plans for the production of consumer goods by associations and enterprises, regardless of their departmental jurisdiction. They are also to step up control over the fulfillment of planned assignments for the production of these goods.

The BSSR Ministry of Trade and the Belorussian cooperative union are to improve the study of the demand of the population for goods that facilitate labor in housework, they are to influence industry more actively to increase their output, expand the assortment and improve the quality, and they are to utilize more fully the rights they have been granted for applying sanctions against associations and enterprises that do not fulfill contractual commitments.

The BSSR Ministry of Trade and Central Statistical Administration have been instructed to develop a classification and to single out individual groups of goods that facilitate labor in housework, and they are also to arrange accounting and accountability for their production, delivery and sales.

It has been recommended that the permanent commissions of the BSSR Supreme Soviet, when considering plans for the republic's economic and social development and reports concerning their fulfillment, devote maximum attention to further increasing the production of goods that facilitate labor in housework, expanding their assortment and improving their quality, and also developing the sphere of consumer services and public catering.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet also considered other questions regarding which the corresponding decisions were made.

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CONSUMPTION TRENDS AND POLICIES

BSSR FOOD INDUSTRY MINISTER INTERVIEWED

Minsk PROMYSHLENNOST' BELORUSSII in Russian No 12, Dec 82 pp 38-42

[Interview with Inna Arseniyevna Stavrovskaya, minister of the BSSR Food Industry by G. Kuretso: "The Republic's Food Shop"]

[Text] Today the CPSU economic policy is directed toward creating all the necessary conditions for satisfying the ever increasing demands of the Soviet people. In particular, the May Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee set the task of removing the food problem from the agenda. No small role in carrying this out is assigned to enterprises that produce food products. In this connection our correspondent met with the minister of the food industry of the Belorussian SSR, Inna Arseniyevna Stavrovskaya, and asked her to answer a number of questions that are of interest to the magazine's readers.

[Question] First, Inna Arseniyevna, let us clarify what the republic food shop offers us today?

[Answer] The branch, which has been created anew since the war, has 169 enterprises. Our industrial potential continues to grow. This will make it possible under the current five-year plan to increase the production volume by 12.8 percent and to produce more items that are in great demand.

[Question] How will this growth look in the cross-section of individual kinds of products?

[Answer] The production of sugar, for example, will increase by 3.4 percent, packaged sugar--by 13.4 percent, pasta items--by 14.5 percent, and packaged pasta items--by 41.2 percent. With an insignificant (3.5 percent) rise in the output of fruit and berry wines, grape production will increase by 24.5 percent. There will be a considerable increase in the production of nonalcoholic drinks. During the last year of the five-year plan 6 million bottles of champagne will be produced.

[Question] Well, what about today?

[Answer] Various products valued at 24 million rubles were produced in excess of the assignment for the eight months. In physical terms these include 11,700 tons of sugar, 7,100 tons of bread and bakery items, and 1,500 tons of confectionary items. The entire increase in the production volume for 1981 and the eight months of this year was provided as a result of increasing labor productivity. Thus the assignments of the five-year plan are considerably more than being fulfilled.

Now about the assortment. Each year the republic's food products develops more than a thousand kinds of items. Is this a lot or not enough? I think that the indicator is fairly good. Of course we cannot stop at this. Last year alone we assimilated 24 new kinds of products. Incidentally, 6 percent of the products we produced were items with improved quality.

New items are developed and introduced taking into account the increased nutritive and biological value of the product and the extensive utilization of local raw material (supplies of fruits and berries, including strawberries, raspberries, bilberries, black and red currants, carrot syrup, bilberry juices and red and black rowanberries), and also soy meal and dairy products. We extensively use infusions of spicy aromatic grasses to produce such drinks as, for example, Chabarok, Zubrenok, Lidskiy and others. But still I cannot but note that the food industry is still experiencing difficulties in providing individual kinds of fruit and berry raw material. I have in mind rowanberry, citrus, apricot and cranberry pulp, carrot syrup and several other things.

[Question] Will "old walls" not become an impediment in the matter of increasing the output of products and expanding their assortment? After all there are many enterprises in the branch that are of an "age" to have worn-out equipment and far from the latest technology. The moral and psychological factor can play no small role in this. How is production being updated and constructed? What about the training and retraining of personnel?

[Answer] Indeed the food industry has quite a few enterprises which have celebrated their half-century and even century anniversaries. Many of them have been reconstructed, production capacities have been enlarged and they have been technically re-equipped. Among these enterprises one can include the Lida and Grodno breweries, the Grodno and Neman tobacco factory, the Oshmyany yeast plant and others. More productive equipment has been installed here, working conditions have improved and the level of mechanization and automation has risen. These enterprises have increased the output of products many times over.

Work for reconstruction, expansion and technical re-equipment is carried out not only "within old walls," but also within recently constructed ones. For example, the Volkovysk bakery has been reconstructed. As a result of this the capacity increased more than 3-fold. I should note that we keep questions of reconstruction at the center of our attention. Recently, for example, on the basis of the Minsk brewery No 2, the Mir alcohol plant, the Gorodeya sugar refinery, the Baranovichi wine combine and the Volkovysk bakery, we conducted a school on advanced training. The managers of the associations and enterprises of the branch became familiar with

the experience in reconstruction of these enterprises with the help of short-term and long-term loans from the Gosbank.

In order to increase the volumes of production and improve the quality of products under the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, we have developed plans for technical re-equipment of enterprises, improvement of technology and equipment, intensification of production processes and introduction of advanced methods of labor in all sub-branches. Last year alone at existing enterprises we introduced 5,120 units of new equipment, including 12 comprehensively mechanized and flow lines, 152 comprehensively mechanized and automated installations and aggregates, and 36 comprehensively mechanized and automated sections--totalling 10.7 million rubles. Moreover, we have implemented more than 1,000 other measures directed toward technical improvement of production, which makes it possible to considerably increase the production volumes and to improve product quality. The products of such enterprises as the Lida brewery, the Grodno tobacco factory, the Minsk yeast plant and several others already correspond to the best models.

Considerable amounts of money are spent on capital construction. Just recently we constructed new bakeries in Mogilev, Klimovich, Novolukoml, Slutsk and Osipovich, and completed the construction of breweries in Minsk, Vobruysk and Rechitsa as well as consolidated bakery No 6 in Minsk. At the Vobruysk winery this year we shall put into operation a shop for producing fruit paste. The construction of the Mozyr plant for producing Ekstra cooking salt, the largest in the country, is approaching completion. As early as 1983 this enterprise will produce 180,000 tons of cooking salt. The construction of the first section of the Ivanovo malt plant with a set of imported equipment, is nearing completion. The same is true of the bakery and confectionary shop in Grodno and the bakeries in Luminets and David-Gorodok. It is planned to carry out radical reconstruction of the Vobruysk confectionary factory and the Borisov pasta factory, and also the Mozyr bakery.

So much for "old" and "new" walls Now about the human factor. Recalling that success depends largely on personnel, we are following a course toward assigning qualified specialists to all areas of the enterprises and increasing their business skills, and also increasing the occupational mastery of the workers. We devote a great deal of attention to ideological and political development of the collectives.

Each year about 50 young specialists come to us with higher and secondary specialized education, including from the Mogilev Technological Institute of the Food Industry, the Belorussian State Institute of the National Economy Imeni V. V. Kuybyshev, and the Molodechno Politekhnikum. One must say that the occupational preparation of the graduates of these training institutions is high. Therefore we have complete confidence that they will cope with the matters entrusted to them. We annually receive approximately 200 other specialists from correspondence and evening study. More than a thousand engineering and technical personnel are increasing their qualifications in special courses. Thus the branch is basically fairly well supplied with skilled personnel. I say "basically" because we are experiencing a need for bookkeeping personnel. We shall solve this problem too.

The system of the republic Ministry of the Food Industry has an effective system of training and retraining workers. In the training and production combine alone about 400 workers are studying new occupations and increasing their skills. Schools of the BSSR state occupational and educational administration render us a large amount of assistance in training personnel. Under the current five-year plan the ministry has planned to construct a technical school in Minsk. In a word, the personnel problem will be solved.

[Question] Let us return, however, to the discussion of the branch products. To what extent do they satisfy the consumers? What is in short supply? What is being done to eliminate the shortages?

[Answer] First of all I shall note that the enterprises of our ministry are providing for the fulfillment of the established assignments for the production of products of the entire approved products list. As I already said, during the eight months of this year we produced a considerable quantity of various items in excess of the plans. The orders from trade organizations are basically being filled. But the demand for certain kinds of products still exceeds the production. Naturally, there is a shortage of them. These include, for example, pasta items, especially long macaroni, alcohol vinegar, and bagels and dried bread items. The ministry will take radical measures to expand the production of these and several other products that are in short supply. In particular, under the current five-year plan a shop for long macaroni will be put into operation at the Borisov macaroni plant. It is intended to install additional lines at bakeries in Slutsk, Mozyr, David-Gorodok, Pinsk, Braslavl, Glubokiy, Klimovichy and Novogrudok for producing rich dry bread products and rolls.

The planning and design bureau has been instructed to develop a technical and economic substantiation for the construction of an alcohol vinegar shop at one of the existing enterprises. After the reconstruction of the Krasnyy pishchevik confectionary factory in Vobruysk and Krasnyy mozyryanin in Narovlya there will increased output of zephyr and marmelade which are in great demand. In 1990 their output will be 4,200 tons (an increase of 30 percent compared to 1982) and 6,250 tons (an increase of 26.5 percent), respectively.

[Question] Incidentally, how do you study the demand and the data that are obtained? How quickly and completely does production react to the demand of the consumers?

[Answer] In keeping with the decree of the party and government concerning further improvement of the economic mechanism, a certain amount of work has been done in the branch to strengthen ties between the suppliers and the purchasers. I shall refer to the bread baking branch. Upon conclusion of agreements with trade organizations, the delivery volumes and assortment are coordinated. In order to maximally satisfy the demand, bakery items are sent to the trade network under daily orders. In order to study the demand, we also conduct sales exhibits, consumers' conferences, days of quality and tastings with the participation of specialists and officials of bakeries and trade. The industry takes their remarks and proposals into account when developing new items.

Still there are cases when the orders from trade organizations do not correspond to the demand. On certain days of the week they suddenly increase (frequently they almost double) and then they will begin to refuse the products altogether. All this, naturally, complicates the work.

[Question] Obviously the ministry has the information that canned products and various concentrates are increasingly in demand among city dwellers. Today they are irreplaceable not only under the conditions of tourism, but also in ordinary households. Would it be worthwhile to expand the assortment of concentrated foods produced by the branch and will their nutritive and taste qualities improve?

[Answer] You are right, but only partially. Why? Not only city dwellers, but also rural residents have come to love canned products. With them it is possible to prepare tasty first and second courses more rapidly. In our system, concentrated food products are produced by the Lida production association. This enterprise annually produces more than 60 kinds of concentrated foods. I can say without boasting that basically all of the association's products are in great demand among the consumers. But especially farinaceous products -- prepared cakes, tortes, pea soup, oatmeal, milk soup, buckwheat kasha, wheat kasha with meat, concentrates with meat, kharcho soup, potato concentrates and bulk concentrates.

By 1990 it is intended to increase the production of concentrated foods for the first and second courses of the meal by reconstructing one of the existing shops of the Lida plant. The assortment of bulk concentrates will be considerably expanded. In order to improve the nutritional and taste qualities, protein supplements will be added to the products.

[Question] Tell us, Inna Arseniyevna, if you were to take a pleasure trip or simply go during the summer to the bosom of nature, which of the branch's products would you place at the head of the list, which would you take with you? Such a question does not bother you?

[Answer] No, not at all. I would begin with bread. It is first of all. On a pleasure trip buns packed in plastic are irreplaceable. They retain their freshness without additional packaging. I have already said that the Lida association alone produces 60 kinds of concentrated foods. I would select the concentrated foods for the first and second courses that I like. From them it is possible to quickly prepare a tasty breakfast, lunch or dinner. Bread and dried bread cubes for the road are also quite convenient for a pleasure trip. And, of course, fruit and berry drinks. But, I repeat, the assortment of concentrated foods will expand.

[Question] But what other products, aside from those already mentioned, do not satisfy the demand of the population?

[Answer] The collectives of the branch are devoting special attention to the output of dietetic products, including diabetic nonalcohol drinks, confectionary and bakery items, and also certain items for children's nutrition. The consumers have become fond of Minsk mineral water. We shall increase the

production of this from 20.5 million bottles in 1982 to 26 million bottles in 1985.

[Question] As was already noted, enterprises of the branch are holding tastings with the participation of trade specialists. But would it not be possible to arrange tastings of the products that have been developed with the participation of men and women who work in other branches, that is, those for whom the products are intended. After all, their opinion could turn out to be useful. What do you think?

[Answer] New kinds of products are the result of long work. Participation in this work by representatives of other branches could undoubtedly have a positive effect on the formation of the assortment and the improvement of the taste qualities of the products. Moreover we are holding tastings of products that are already produced. This is done in order not to allow a deterioration of their taste qualities. I think that the participation of the public in these tastings would be very useful. But the final decision about the output of new products is made by the central tasting commission, which includes specialists from our ministry and also ministries of trade and public health as well as the republic Gosstandart.

[Question] Inna Arseniyevna, when speaking about improving the mechanism for studying the demand you touched upon the bread problem. Tell us, please, will bread products become more nutritious and tastier? And another thing, the majority of people purchase only fresh bread--stale bread loses its unique aroma. But the stores frequently sell bread that is not as fresh as it could be. What is the matter here, how can the situation be rectified?

[Answer] Our bakers constantly work on improving the nutritive and biological value of bakery products. This year more than 72 percent of them will be produced with special supplements. In order for the bread not to become stale so quickly, a number of enterprises have been equipped with chambers made out of polyethylene material, and in Minsk some of the rolls are produced in packaged form. Bakery items are delivered to the trade network with specialized automotive transportation according to schedules and routes that have been drawn up and agreed upon with trade organizations. Another possible measure for preventing the delivery of stale bread is to deliver the bread to trade enterprises during the night.

But the transportation of bread and rolls during the night has not yet been satisfactorily organized in our republic. Instead of the recommended shipment in the amounts of 35-40 percent to Grodno, it amounts to 11 percent, Brest--15 percent, Minsk--20 percent, Gomel--27 percent and Vitebsk--35 percent. In Mogilev and a number of other cities there are no night shipments at all. Yet bakery items have limited storage times--from 16 to 36 hours after baking. One cannot allow the bread to become stale too soon. Undoubtedly we who are both producers and consumers should become more thrifty. Bread is a national wealth.

[Question] And another thing about bakery items. Does the desire to increase labor productivity not have an effect on the reduction of the assortment. Why do the enterprises of the republic not produce enough spice cakes and why have they not organized the production of "Moscow loaves"?

[Answer] Orientation toward the creation of a multitude of new items reduces the effectiveness of the utilization of production capacities of the bakeries and increases the expenditure of flour and other raw material when baking bread and rolls. It has been suggested that we standardize and efficiently reduce the assortment, taking into account the existing demands and the profitability of production. Bakeries of our ministry produce more than 200 kinds of bread and rolls. Among them are also items for which there is no demand. Having analyzed the assortment, we have made the corresponding suggestions to the union ministry. As for the output of certain kinds of spice cake and "Moscow loaves," that depends on the supplies of raw material that are allotted and the orders from trade organizations. For instance, the production of Moskovskiy spice cake is held up by the lack of natural honey which is included in its recipe.

[Question] What other problems have not been solved?

[Answer] There are unsolved problems. They are primarily related to the ever increasing demands both for product quality and an expanded assortment. And this is predictable. The standard of living of our people has risen immeasurably. And we, unfortunately, are not carrying out reconstruction or increasing production capacities as rapidly as we would like to. Today, for example, we do not have enough production capacities for producing beer and nonalcoholic drinks, mineral water, kvass, buns, dried bread cubes and other kinds of items.

Enterprises of the confectionary, pasta and tobacco industry are experiencing great difficulties in acquiring corrugated packaging. Each year the funds for acquiring packaging materials are not fully spent. And in a number of cases the quality of the packaging materials does not meet the requirements of the food industry.

The bread baking industry is not satisfactorily supplied with polyethylene material. The lack of boxes seriously complicates the work of many enterprises. If only they would somewhat alleviate the shortage and organize the manufacture of polyethylene boxes.

There are certain difficulties in providing the confectionary industry with individual kinds of raw material. We hope that the BSSR Ministry of Agriculture will considerably increase the production of buckwheat and its delivery to our branch. Buckwheat concentrates are in great demand among the population.

Finally, I cannot but mention the difficulties related to shipments, especially raw material and prepared products during the winter and summer period. Transportation disorders lead to deterioration of product quality, more difficult working conditions and material losses.

[Question] And the last question. Is there a guarantee that the food branch of the republic will successfully fulfill the tasks set for it by the Food Program?

[Answer] Collectives of all enterprises, associations and production sections are working enthusiastically on fulfilling the plans of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan and the assignments earmarked by the Food Program. The corresponding measures have been developed. The board and the party organization of the ministry are exercising constant control over their fulfillment. All this taken together guarantees success.

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CONSUMPTION TRENDS AND POLICIES

DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER EXAMINES PUBLIC CATERING SERVICES

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Oct 82 p 3

[Article by V. Bykov, USSR deputy minister of trade: "At the Table of Millions" under the heading: "How Trade Should Develop". The paragraph enclosed in slant-lines appears in the original text in italics.]

[Text] /Today about 110 million people make daily use of the services of 308,000 public catering facilities: cafeterias, cafes and restaurants. Their annual commodity circulation has reached a value of 25 billion R. Every day about 10,000 tons of meat and fowl, 14,000 tons of potatoes and vegetables and 8,600 tons of flour, cereals and pasta are processed by these enterprises to support the output of foods that they themselves produce./

The principles that will guide the further progress of the country's public catering facilities are determined in conformance with the resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress and that of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers: "On measures to advance the development of trade and improve commercial services to the public in the 11th Five-Year Plan." By 1985 the network of public catering facilities should be extended by 18.5%, commodity circulation should grow by 19.4% and the value of in-house production should reach 19.7 billion R.

Tasks related to the rise in the population's standard of living and the attainment of full provision of all consumers with hot meals at their work place, educational institution or residence demand a considerable increase in the volume of production and sales of food in public catering facilities. To solve this problem, a way must above all be found to increase labor productivity. For this reason the party has issued to labor in the "food sector" the mandate of raising the branch's level of industrialization.

In the transfer of public catering facilities to new operational methods, the food-producing branches of industry, to which it has been mandated that they put into production highly preprocessed foods, ought to play a leading role. The

technology of food preparation in public food service will undergo a radical change as a result. Cafeterias are being changed to enterprises where a main meal will "be assembled" from highly preprocessed semiprepared foods. This system circumvents the necessity of maintaining many types of equipment in each facility, reduces staff size and markedly raises labor productivity.

The USSR Ministry of Trade works continually with the food-processing branches of industry to increase productivity and make available to public catering facilities highly preprocessed semiprepared foods. Thus, the Scientific Research Institute of Public Catering and the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Canning, Vegetable Drying and Food Concentrate Industry have brought to production more than 80 specific conserved food items: vegetable and mixed salads, condensed gravies and sauces, seasoning mixes for soups and accompaniments to meat, fish and vegetable main dishes. The selection of canned vegetables has also been expanded appreciably. The industry has written up technical instructions entitled "Preparation of fruit and vegetable conserves and flash-frozen vegetable, fruit and berry combinations for public catering facilities".

However, one still must not be satisfied with the level achieved in production of highly processed semiprepared foods for public catering facilities. Today, for example, semiprepared meat dishes supplied by the country's meat industry constitute only a 31.3% share of the total volume of meat utilized in public catering. But if we take into account that around 70% of semiprepared meat is supplied as large cuts that cannot be called highly preprocessed food, it becomes easy to understand why meat-cutting facilities for numerous preparatory steps must be designed and maintained at all public catering facilities. All this requires that installations be equipped completely with various technical devices and prolongation of an unproductive status of food-processing technology.

The situation of semiprepared fish dishes is similar. In 1980 their proportion of all fish supplied to cafeterias and cafes barely exceeded 25%.

The same public catering facilities possess great reserves for the growth of labor productivity: here it is almost essential to introduce industrial methods of food preparation.

Comrade L. I. Brezhnev remarked at the 26th CPSU Congress: "Comrades, the resolution of the greatest and most complex problems is now within our powers. But the pivotal factor of economic policy will become, as it were, the simple and very ordinary matter of a responsible relationship to the good of society and the ability to utilize everything we have fully and efficiently."

Taking this situation into account, the USSR Ministry of Trade has worked out an intrabranch program to industrialize the production of culinary articles. The first part of the plan is focused on establishing centralized production of highly preprocessed semiprepared foods both by remodeling operational enterprises and by constructing food-processing factories and complexes of large-scale kitchens

using recent-issue equipment. The second part is geared at introducing progressive technology for industrialized food preparation using recently designed, new, highly efficient equipment.

The introduction in food preparation of industrial technology, which makes possible a more rational, economical use of food resources, is an important means of implementing the resolutions of the May (1982) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, at which the presence of excessively great deviations in public catering, in sanatoria and vacation homes was discussed. The centralized production of highly preprocessed foods allows this serious flaw to be remedied and will make possible significant savings in the country's food resources.

As an experiment, the whole public catering service network of Pervoural'sk, Sverdlovsk Oblast, was transferred to industrial methods of food preparation. The experiment seemed to be successful. It provides evidence that it is concretely possible to industrialize the public catering service of large and small cities by reconstructing the operating material and technical base.

Thus, in the Pervoural'sk cafeteria trust, 128 persons once employed in raw materials processing have been relieved, 100 units of technical equipment have been disassembled, 128,000 R of the city's wage fund has been saved and the workers' labor productivity has increased by 17%.

The USSR Ministry of Trade held an All-Union conference in Pervoural'sk to consider problems of and past experience in introducing industrial methods of food processing at public catering facilities. It must be emphasized that this question is the focus of the Sverdlovsk Oblast CP Committee's attention.

In Kiev, there are purposeful efforts to transfer public catering to the industrial preparation of semiprepared foods. For example, the Darnitskiy raykom of the UkrSSR CP devotes a great deal of thought to reconstructing the Darnitskiy culinary factory. Today all the cafeterias in the rayon are being re-equipped as preprocessing enterprises, which has raised appreciably the labor productivity of the branch. Industrial methods of food preparation are being actively introduced in L'vov Oblast, where the CP obkom adopted a special resolution to impose as concrete tasks the heightened production of highly preprocessed semiprepared meat, fish and vegetable dishes.

To attain a high-level end result, a program has been planned and confirmed in the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology together with USSR Gosplan to introduce industrial, technological processes of producing foods for public catering facilities and to create complexes of equipment to produce, package, store and transport semiprepared foods, utilizing different types of unified packaging. In conformance with the program, work has started for the purpose of introducing industrial methods of food processing for public catering facilities

in the Gagarin Rayon, Moscow and the Shevchenko Rayon, Kiev and in the town of Orekho-Zuyevo, Moscow Oblast. The object of development here is an entire, basically new technological chain from industrialized preparation and transport of food to its sale to consumers at enterprises where processing is completed.

In addition, the resolutions of the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, which approved the USSR food program to 1990, project an increase in the efficiency of public food services--the most important link in the economy's food-production chain. It is important to improve economic interconnections among all branches of the food complex and to organize the interaction of departments concerned with increasing the production of food and improving its storage, transport, processing and direct availability to the purchaser.

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CONSUMPTION TRENDS AND POLICIES

SEASONAL FLUCTUATIONS IN CONSUMER DEMAND DISCUSSED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Dec 82 p 2

[Article by N. Dergachev, economist, and M. Buzhkevich: "Bypassing the Client"]

[Text] Last summer on the last Saturday of August on the streets of Yaroslavl, with its numerous vendors and dozens of trucks, they were selling slippers, women's robes, blouses and other items from the shops and factories of consumer services. One cannot say that the goods were "grabbed up." Their external appearance was not very attractive. They were bought mainly by people who had come from distant villages where such things cannot be found. But the managers of the service enterprises were happy about this. Frequently, especially at the end of the month, they arrange convenient sales and are always glad to get the items off their hands: the plan for the volume of services is then fulfilled. The so-called small batches of items have become an "I spy" children's game.

In order for the reader to understand the secret here, what "small batches" are, it is necessary to take a small excursion into the recent past of the sphere of services. About 15 years ago when the branch began to develop rapidly specialists noted that in the flow of individual orders for footwear and clothing, knitted items, furniture and other items there are seasonal fluctuations, something like ebbs and flows. Sometimes the shop cannot beat the clients off and sometimes the masters sit with their hands folded. And yet their work is paid for by piece rate. A quite reasonable solution was found. During the time of the decline, when there are few individual orders, they were permitted to manufacture according to an established model a small quantity of knitted items, furniture and footwear and sell them only in the shop or the receiving points. And this is convenient for the client: one can acquire something one likes without waiting until it is manufactured. And the masters work with a full load.

The innovation became accepted. In the "Instructions on the Policy for Drawing up Consumer Service Accounts on Form No 1--Consumer Services," approved by the USSR Central Statistical Administration with the agreement of the USSR

Gosplan, which regulates all the work of consumer service enterprises, there appeared a paragraph which permits the output of items in several models or small batches, but not to the detriment of the fulfillment of individual orders from the population.

It would seem that everything is in place and the harmful influence of the seasonal declines has been eliminated. But a small "trifle" was left out. They forgot to stipulate or to define precisely the very concept of a "small batch." How many pairs of shoes can it include: 10, 100, 1,000? Certain managers of enterprises in the sphere of services were not slow in taking advantage of this. They thought: why be concerned about bringing in clients, taking their demanding taste into account or caring for advancing the art and improving the quality of service? It is simpler to include in small batches the ordinary mass products and to put them on the markets, in the trade fairs and in distant villages, bypassing the established rules. And nobody stopped them. The workers of the consumer service ministries and administrations, having recognized all the attractiveness of small batches as a reliable instrument for fulfilling the plan for the volume of services, began in all ways to indulge themselves in increasing their volumes. The matter became even simpler when the oblast and kray ispolkoms and councils of ministers of autonomous republics were instructed to establish the volumes of small batches. They were quick to agree to increasing the output of such products.

Let us cross over a couple of years and look at what came from this. This summer the USSR Ministry of Finance and the USSR Gosplan were instructed to check on the condition of consumer services in a number of union republics. Hereafter we shall use the materials of the inspection which were submitted to us by the USSR Ministry of Finance.

And so, according to data of the USSR Central Statistical Administration, the proportion of small batches in the overall volume of consumer services in the country as a whole last year did not exceed 10 percent. It turns out that there is no cause for alarm: workers of the sphere of services put the interests of the population first. Is this so? If one looks at the proportion of small batches in terms of specific kinds of service, the picture turns out to be different. Their proportion in the overall volume of manufacture of footwear increased from 37.2 percent in 1976 to 51.5 percent in the first half of 1982, and the figures for the manufacture of knitted items were from 21.9 to 48.1 percent, respectively.

If one goes down to the republic, oblast and rayon level, the situation turns out to be even more alarming. During the first six months of this year in the Russian Federation the manufacture of footwear for the population by consumer services decreased by 2.7 percent, and the output of footwear in small batches increased by more than 4 percent, even though at a meeting of the board of the RSFSR Ministry of Consumer Services which was held in January they strictly condemned increasing the amounts of output of items in mass quantities.

In a number of oblasts of the Ukraine and Kazakhstan the proportion of these batches in the manufacture of slippers, shoes, boots, knitwear and furniture

amounts to from 70 to 90 percent of the overall volume of the aforementioned kinds of services. And that is still not all. In the Akkurganskiy, Parkentskiy, Bostanlykskiy and Galabinskiy rayon consumer service combines in Tashkent Oblast 100 percent of the footwear, knitted jackets and jumpers are produced as small batches. Such "record breakers" are also encountered among enterprises of the Tbilisi consumer service administration and in other places.

But perhaps it is really more convenient for the client to purchase ready made items? Hardly. If this were the case the stockpiles of unsold items would not be growing in the warehouses. Thus at enterprises of the RSFSR Ministry of Consumer Services alone by 1 July of this year the value of products produced in the form of small batches and semimanufactured products amounted to almost 98 million rubles. And all because the fashions are outdated, the colors are faded and the quality is poor. Moreover the production cost of the goods is much higher than that of products from related light industry and furniture industry enterprises. As a result the interests of both the client and the state suffer.

There is still another aspect of the problem under consideration--the legal aspect. The sale of illegal items from the vendors' stands and consumer service vans is a phenomenon which is against the law.

Let us return to the provisions concerning the state socialist production enterprise (which, of course, pertain also to consumer service enterprises). They say that one of the conditions for the activity of such an enterprise is to provide guaranteed sales of their products through deliveries in keeping with agreements that have been concluded with supply-sales or trade organizations.

This requirement is not met when small batches are sold. Some of them remain in the warehouses of factories and consumer service associations. Violating the established policy, they themselves organize the sale of the products that are produced, referring to "deliveries" to distant regions of their own or neighboring oblasts. As a rule, in such cases there is no mandatory marking or designation of the price for these things. But one can find receipts for them which show that the items were manufactured for . . . individual orders. In other words, we are faced with a direct deceit--some of the mass produced items are included among those created on orders from the population.

It is difficult to refute the obvious: small batches, instead of producing an advantage as was thought when they were introduced, have grown immeasurably and become an impediment to improving the service to the people. The clients are nearly always unable to order an item they need which meets their demands and tastes in a studio or shop--the consumer service enterprises are driven to "mass output."

Tempers have been flaring around this issue for several years now. Various departments--the USSR ministries of finance and internal affairs, the USSR Gosbank, the USSR state committee for prices, the AUCCTU and the councils of ministers of several union republics--are persistently demanding that the rendering of services not be replaced by the sale of goods. The USSR Gosplan and Central Statistical Administration do not deny these demands. But they are not taking decisive steps to meet them.

What should be done? It is necessary only to carry out previously adopted decisions. In December 1969 (!) the USSR Council of Ministers established that the activity of consumer service enterprises is to be evaluated according to the results of the fulfillment of the established assignment for the sale of services to the population. But the USSR Central Statistical Administration and Gosplan and the consumer service ministries of the union republics are still not singling out in the plans and reports of their sales the volume of services under individual orders from the population.

There are several suggestions as to how to restructure the system of planning and accounting in the sphere of services. If they were summed up they would appear approximately as follows.

The main indicator should be the plan for the sale of services in order to fulfill individual orders. Only those who cover this plan, if they achieve the established level of other economic and production indicators, can claim bonuses or positions of winners in socialist competition.

A second indicator is the plan for the fulfillment of orders of institutions and organizations, above all social and domestic ones: kindergartens, schools, hospitals, hotels and so forth. And, finally, a third yardstick is the plan for mass production of items of various models, including in small batches. In order for their output not to impede the fulfillment of orders from the population, the maximum amounts of these batches should be established specifically for each group of items and should not exceed 15-20 percent of the overall output of them. Obviously economists should have the last word here.

Along with the three aforementioned indicators there is the overall volume of sales of service and the output of products by consumer service enterprises. Thus we are speaking about changing the very methods and system of planning service for the population and various institutions and organizations.

According to data of scientists of the Scientific Research Economics Institute under the USSR Gosplan, each year Soviet people expend more than 100 million man-hours on self-service in daily life, which is equivalent to the labor of about 50 million workers. To reduce these expenditures if only by several percentage points means to improve the balance of labor resources in the country, and to save free time for people to expand their world view, rear children and engage in healthy recreation. Improving the system of planning the development of consumer services, including elimination of distortions brought about by the hypertrophied output of items in small batches will undoubtedly help in solving such an important socio-economic problem. Without this it is impossible to sharply improve the quality and advance the art of service.

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